which I sent to Torrey as a nov: spec. It appears to me to differ materially from A. funiculosa. I find that I have another specimen of it, & have just compared the two. (Torrey can keep his.) The color of the petals is different! The pedicels are different in length! The spikes differ in pubescence! & the proportions of the petals are not the same? — I wish you would examine the plant, & give me your opinion.

I shall send the hoopes in a week a fortnight to Torrey, & half a dozen plants for him. I shall write to him at the same time giving information thereof.

Can you tell me what is the Veratrum parviflorum, Mx? Can you tell me the difference between Veronica agrestis, Ell. & V. hederifolia? — I shall be happy to hear from you at all times; & believe me

cadially your friend.

M. A. Curtis.

Wilmington N.C. Dec: 26th/11 1836

Dear Sir,

I this day recd your letter, postmarked New York Nov: 4th & Lincolnton Dec: 16th/11. I am sorry it was so long delayed. But I was very glad to hear of you from your own hand. I am gratified too with your views of the Ammania which I sent you, or rather Dr Torrey. I had examined the plant so thoroughly in its freshest and best state, after sending a fragment to Torrey, that I had not the least doubt of its character. I was very certain too, that I had an entirely new plant. I believe now, that I will not expect to make any new discoveries. Two other plants have been taken up by Trimins, which I had relied upon implicitly as new discoveries, viz. Orontium aquaticum, & Panicum Alabamense. So Torrey calls the plant which I sent him under the name of Paspalum caroliniarum. By the way, I want to hear more about that plant. Torrey afterwards called it Paspalum floridanum. But it cannot be. Though it has the habit of Paspalum, it has a minute accessory valve which throws it into Panicum, I suppose. It is apparently a connecting link between the two genera.

You enquire about my Ammania, whether it grows in flowing or stagnant water. I got it from the bottom of a Mill pond, near Lincolnton, entirely submersed, growing among the roots of Nuphar advena; Although the water of this pond is carried off & feeds a mill, I should call it stagnant. It is a muddy dirty, swampy, body of water. At any rate it is not running water where this plant grows. I never saw it but in this pond, & as above situated.

The flowers open when very minute, even beyond the inspection of an ordinary lens. They gradually enlarge however, when the capsule, at first ovate, becomes depressed. First thus O; then, O. — At its young state, or more properly flowering stage, the segments of the calyx form a pyramid. The stamens are certainly 4, for I counted them in numerous instances in the young flower, & saw perfect anthers on each; though I recollect that in some instances I did not succeed in finding that number. This I imputed to the minuteness of the flowers. The Stamens are perigynous & incumbent, reposing on the capsule. So that in general I plainly saw the whole at one glance, by turning back the calyx. They then presented this view. ◈ — Anthers 2 lobed! I am not a little surprised at Nuttall's throwing this plant into Peplis. — — I have been thinking that this plant with perhaps two or three other species of Ammania, which have a 4 toothed Cal: & 2 celled capsule, & not having the bracts, might form a proper genus. These other species to which I allude, I cannot remember as I have no books to refer to. I had thought of imposing the generic name of Hydrolythia. It is rather uncouth, but so are half the names in Botany. ὑπόβρυχιος = in aquis submersus. & therefore in its signification is appropriate. What is your objection to it? — If you like submersa better, why, then take it. I say submersa, because a better word than clemersa which you propose. But I must say, that I like the Greek word better, as something new.

I have just made up a parcel of specimens for Hooker, & shall send them to Torrey to be forwarded, for I do not know any other way of getting them to their destination but by troubling the Doctor. I shall send at the same time a box to you. It will not contain much, but I hope you will find something which will be acceptable. I sent a list of desiderata to Torrey last month, which will be a guide to you in making such return as you are able. I should like it, if you can give me such plants as Torrey cannot supply; in other words, that you do not each of both make a package of the same species. I am anxious to complete an American Herb: as soon as possible.

I have lately accepted a place in our School at Raleigh, which I fear is a laborious one. This may prevent my doing so much in Botany as heretofore. It is by no means certain however that I shall make it a permanent situation.

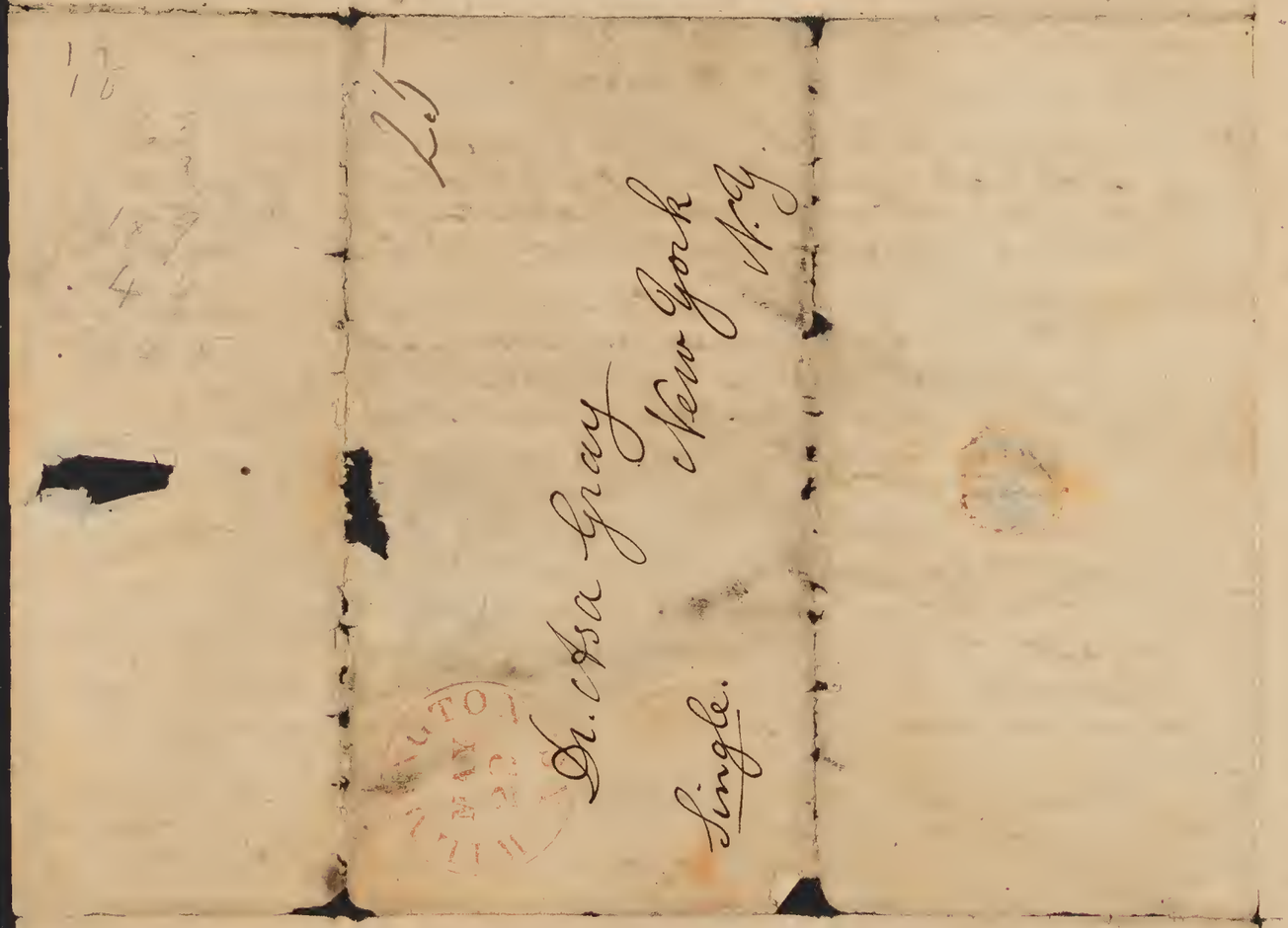
Have you seen among Schweinitz' plants, a small Panicum which he calls P. pictum? It is similar in habit to Torrey's P. carinatum. What is it? I have it from this State, & I saw it in Herb. Ell. under the above name. — — What is your opinion of an Amomum or Hedychium

you will find a Port Folio the most convenient thing to herborize with, I think. My plan was to have a strap pass under the back, so that I could suspend it over my shoulders, & thus have my hands in clambering over precipices. You should have a pair of saddle bags, & as few clothes as you can get along with. You will need all the room you can get to carry your paper for drying, as you will be unable to procure it, after leaving Morganton, until you reach the Warm Springs.

I hope you can stand "camping out" at night under the open sky, as your investigations will be sometimes cut short without it. I recommend one night upon Grandfather & two upon the Roan Mtn.

Dr. J. F. McRee, Wilmington, wishes you to send him the Nos. of your Flora, as issued. You can call upon Thos. L. Callender, commission Merch.ts, Ky. for payment. Dr McRee has written to Callender for the first vol: bound, so that you need not send vol: I.

I will try if I can get other subscribers.



I hope you will be able to give me a list of plants you may find in N.C., after your tour, as I am anxious to secure as complete a list of N.C. plants as possible, which I may finally publish. - Should you find anything I have not got, I shall be inclined to beg a specimen.

If you desire anything further, which is not included in my letter, you had better write again. I have tried to make my itinerarium complete, & have spent more five hours upon, but it is very likely it may be deficient after all. Address me henceforth at Hillsborough, N.C. - I got a letter from him Torrey not long since, which I shall answer by & by. Please inform him that he may send packages to me, directed to Washington, N.C. care of Eli Hoyt, Esq.

very truly yours &c

W. H. Curtis.

Wilmington N.C. May 21st. 1841

Dear Sir,

Your letter, postmarked 12th inst., I received yesterday, & proceed to answer it at once, as well as I can. Though I am perfectly familiar with the tracks over and among our Mts. south of Ashe Co., yet it will be rather difficult to give you on paper a satisfactory account of them, such as I could give you with half an hour's conversation, with a good map before us. If therefore, you can enter N. Carolina so as to visit Hillsborough (though it would be out of your direct course from Harper's Ferry to our Mts.) I could give you valuable information, diagrams, & introductory letters, which would much better assist you than this letter. What advantages of travelling you may find in Virg.a "between the Blue Ridge & Alleg.y", I know not; but in this State there are not even public roads. If you visit our Mts. you will be obliged to travel on foot or horseback along intricate cattle paths, & put up with accommodations on the way, such as you never dreamed of. You will need vigorous legs & a strong stomach.. The Mts. which have been least explored in this State, & perhaps never visited by a Botanist, are in Ashe Co., adjoining Virg.a. Some of them are very high, & by accounts from people residing there, affording a vegetation rather different from those I have visited [illegible] South. I have long thought that my next visit to our Mts. would be to those of Ashe. I should advise you to let the Blk Mt. alone, as its vegetation is scanty & nothing peculiar, & would require a full week to explore. I spent three days upon it & found nothing which you cannot find in greater abundance upon Grandfather. Upon its higher parts you will find no small growth whatever. Unless you choose to spend your time in Ashe Co., I would recommend the following course.

Go first to Morganton, Burke Co. [You can reach this place by Stage, only by going to Salisbury.] Here you must get horses, for you cannot well do any amount of work on foot, with the time you have

(1.) By a ride of 15 miles from Morganton you reach Table Mt., one of the best we have for botanizing. Here you will find Baptisia mollis Chitt, Rhodonia montana, &c. &c. You will put up with one Parks, for whom enquire.

(2) – From Parks, go to Colletsville (about 12 miles) when you will be 19 miles from the summit of Grandfather. Enquire for Mr Wm. Pruitt, who will give you the route over Wilson's Ridge to Billy White's who lives on Grandfather & will be your pilot in gaining its rugged summits. Here you may revel in novelties. In your route hither along Wilson's Creek, you will find plenty of the Boykinia. In the higher Mt. streams you will find Saxifraga erosa & Thalictrum filipes, Diphylleia, & &c in abundance. This region is abundant in Musci & Lichenes.

(3) When you have finished Grandfather & the adjacent ridges, get White or one of his neighbors to pilot you to Carpenter's (visiting Linville Falls on the way). This will be 12 miles. Thence to Bedford Wiseman's 2½ miles, where you will strike a road. Take this road up Joe River 8 miles to Crab Orchard, enquiring for Isaac Avery's plantation.

(4.) At Avery's place get a pilot (get Evan Hughes, if you can) to conduct you over the Yellow Mt., if you have time. [It is a beautiful Mt. though I found nothing peculiar on it. This will take one day only.] The next day push for Roan Mt., where you should carry provision for three days. You can go over it hastily in one day, but it is worth a three days' exploration. [It is the most beautiful Mt. & the richest in its flora that I ever visited, being a natural pasture extending 8 or 9 miles, & 6030 ft above the sea. In ascending it from Avery's, & when towards the top, look out for a Geum, which may be G. geniculatum. I originally referred it to that, but have not examined it since. It cannot be the rivale, which it resembles somewhat. On the summit is Gradiatum in abundance, also Alnus Mitchelliana, mihi. This seems to be the same with the White Mt. Alnus which I profess, but I cannot refer it to any described species.] Descend the Mt. at the west end to David Baker's.

(5). From Baker's enquire the nearest road to Burnsville (about 15 miles); From Burnsville to Wm. Hensley's, 7½ miles. [Hensley will pilot you to the Bald Mt., if you choose to visit it: It is a beautiful summit, but has nothing peculiar in its vegetation.]. From Hensley's enquire about the Bear Gap road to Edmund's Station, 25 miles. From thence by the Hopewell Hill road to Woolsey's, 8 miles. Here you are on the French Broad River & 4½ miles above the Warm Springs. [You had better explore the Mt. & river between this & the Tennessee line, where you will find some things peculiar. Philadelphus hirsutus, Nutt, is common along here; & it was on the border of the river that I found the plant which I sent lately to Torrey as Spiraea rivularis.]

(6) When you have finished here, ascend the river to Asheville, 32 miles above Woolsey's, & 36 above the Springs. Here enquire for Mr Clingman or Dr Hardy, or both, who will give you directions for visiting Mt. Pisgah, & if they have time, will gladly accompany you. [This Mt. has not been measured, but it is conjectured by some that it is higher than the Blk Mt. I never visited it, and cannot speak for its Flora.]

(7). – You might take an excursion (of 25 miles) from Asheville to Flat Rock in Henderson Co., where you will find in some places quite a different kind of vegetation, partaking in a measure of that of our low country – patches of low, flat, grassy pine woods, a sort of mongrel savannah. Here I found Sarracenia rubra. – In it was along the road side in this county, that I collected my Liatris (dd) = L. pilosa.

(8). From Flat Rock, you might take an excursion (of 30 miles?) to the Hickory Nut Gap, where is the finest scenery in the State, if not in the country, & where you might explore the Mts. perhaps with profit. This will be your best route back to Morganton, if you are not bent upon visiting the Blk Mt. By best, I mean one which will furnish you the most sights & plants.

(9). If you return to Asheville from Flat Rock, or from Hickory Nut Gap, or have not time to take excursions (7) & (8), you can go from Asheville to Morganton (60 miles) by the Swannanoa Gap, stopping the first night at Carson's.

(10). Now if you wish to visit Black Mt., enquire at Carson's the route up Buck Creek over the Blue Ridge to Baxter Curtis' (15 miles). Curtis will pilot you up the Mt., and a tough job you will find it. You can return, as you came, to Carson's, or adopt course (11).

(11.) From Curtis's take a course towards Burnsville, until you reach the road from Burnsville to Morganton, then move for Morganton. Enquire for McCall's at the foot of Linville Mt. Here you might stop a day to explore the Nath Cove, which has a good many choice plants. [From Curtis's to McCall's I have never travelled by the route above designated & cannot therefore give you the distance. If you can go thither from Carson's, if you choose.]

12. From Call's to Morganton, near 30 miles, & a dull ride. [You cross Linville Mt., & can here collect plenty of Pinus pungens, as you can indeed on any Mt. east of the Blue Ridge.]

I think I have now given you work enough for 8 weeks, but you will not be obliged to follow it all out. The first part of it (Nos. (1). — (4).) will be the most profitable. And if you cannot accomplish more than that, then you can go from Baker's to Burnsville, & thence to Morganton in two or three days.

In getting your information of routes be particular to demand an account of all the forks in your path, lest you be led astray. Nos. (3) & (4) you must not attempt without a pilot; the rest you can manage with care.

If you are anxious for the Compositae, you should wait till the middle of August; otherwise, May & July are the best months.) –

You had better not be led out of the tracks I have indicated, if time is of any consequence to you, as I have given you the shortest routes to accomplish your work in. I wish it was in my power to accompany you, but that cannot be. I shall start for Hillsborough next week, where I have been called to settle, & where I shall be very glad to see you if you can manage to make it convenient.

will find Sarracenia rubra, taking the place of S. flava in the low country. It was in passing through this county (the precise locality I do not remember) that I collected the Liatris pilosa. — You had better not be deterred from visiting any places, merely because I have been before you, for in all cases my examination of the Mts has been incomplete & hasty. Being frequently in company with those who went merely for a visit, I had no opportunity of examining much except along the beaten track. A great many plants are enumerated by Mich. & Pursh, which I have never found. And when I have collected a parcel of rare plants, I have had to throw away my duplicates to preserve the rest. This accounts for the frequent use of the (+) on my labels, which annoys me exceedingly.

Hillsborough June 21st 1841

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 14th was recieved a few days since, & was of high interest, as it determines so many of the obscurest plants in my Herb: I am also glad that you have made up your mind to take the tour of our Mts. I have no doubt it will be a tour of much pleasure, if you are able to overlook poor fare, bad lodgings, &c. So far as Nature is concerned you will have abundance to enjoy. My mind will follow you in all your wandering, regretting however that I cannot be with you.

As I informed you in my last letter, I have never been in Ashe Co., & can give you no help there. I will take upon me to say however, that you will not need any letters in order to get along smoothly. I never had occasion in all my wanderings for any sort of introduction, as the people are all ready to accommodate one as well as they can. If your course lay in a little more civilized region, I could give you some letters that might be of service. I will write a letter to Dr. Hardy or Mr. Clingman at Asheville to prepare the way for you there, which is all you will need, I think. As to several of those mentioned in my former letter, I doubt if they can read. By the way, you can pay a visit to the tomb (?) of poor Lyon at Asheville, if you are disposed to such things.

It is not unlikely that, if you are so disposed, you can make your ascent of Grandfather Mt from the north-west side

My last great tour was one of health, & I did not collect more in 4 months than you will collect in a week. — I hope you will write me from Jefferson & let me know how you are getting along, & what discoveries you have made &c. &c. — If you wish for any further information, I will write to you at Asheville. I may do so at any rate, instead of writing to Dr. Hardy, which will perhaps be the best way. — The more details you give me of your journey the better. — — — I have not yet rec'd No 5. of yr Flora, and I am nearly frantic for it sometimes.

very truly yours
M. A. Curtis.

Dr. Asa Gray
Jefferson
Ashe Co. N.C.

Why friend Judge Bailey says, that you are first rate Botanist, who knows the Public Lands in connection with all the region & Freight &c. &c. & that he is the most intelligent man in the country, & that the information you want, &c. &c.

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under the guidance of some pilot who can lead you to Billy White's, or some of his neighbors. This course would save you a good many miles. If I was with you, I could make it out, I know. The ascent of the Mtn is often made from that direction - Should you not pursue that course, but take the road to Morganton, then enquire your way to Colletsville, which is on the upper road to M. Here you turn off for Grandfather. - Instead of taking the route which I before gave you from Whites to Oak Orchard, perhaps Billy W. can give you a nearer track by Cranberry or the "Old fields of Toe River". I do not know however the exact relative position of these places, having never visited them. But always make this your rule, to avoid public roads, for they are generally along the most barren regions. - - - You should not fail to visit Grandfather, as it has in some respects a peculiar Flora. In the Musci & Lichenes it far surpasses any of our Mtn. - I think it is in this region that you will find the Shortia, & Limnocifuga cordata. Should you find them, do save me a specimen. This puts me in mind of your notion of "paying tribute" to me. The principle of this I do not comprehend, & could not readily enforce it by any argument; But if you are persuaded of its correctness, I am glad of it, so I get the plants. I presume you will keep a list of plants as you proceed, whether you collect the more common ones or not. I hope you will, as I am very anxious to obtain a list of all our N.C. plants. From that list, (which I shall eagerly desire to see) should you have found anything that I have not got, I shall be very happy of the privilege of making a draft upon you for a single specimen of such species as I do not possess. - - - I think you had better confine your researches to the Mtn west of the Blue Ridge, as the Ridge in N.C. is generally low and presents little that is peculiar. For the most part, it only has the most common plants. Though how it may be in the S I do not know.

As to visiting Table Rock - you will hardly find anything new about there, though there are some choice plants. When you reach Colletts, you must judge for yourself. [N.B. It might be well for you to leave what plants you have got well dried at Morganton to be sent by stage (if the stage still runs) to Asheville.] Your time should be the only consideration, as the Mtn is well worth a visit.

I think if you are disposed to visit Haywood Co Mtn, you will find a region that has not been explored by any Botanist. My examination there was slight, being too unwell at the time to ascend the Mtn - My intention was to have followed the Pigeon river through to Tennessee, but was obliged to give it up. I could obtain no evidence that any white man had ever passed that way. There is a road from Waynesville to Newport, Tenn: parallel with that over the Mtn River, which my companion Reinhardt took when he left me, but I have never heard of him since. - I should be very glad if you could take the Pigeon river in your course, though I hardly know what you would do with your horses, for they could not get along. You might do this. From Waynesville go to Davidson's on Jonathan's Creek, 18 miles, & leave your horses. [Davidson keeps a public house in W. & you can put up with him. He will give you direction to his plantation.] It is on your road to his plantation, by the road side on J. Creek, that you will find my Thermopsis. There is but little of it, & pray leave some. It is about 7 miles from W. where it is found, if I remember right, but I am not certain. - From Davidson's take a trail to Fred: Mesor's, 6 miles. Here you have got beyond the civilized world, & if you cannot endure fleas & filth you had better not make the trial. But Fred will go anywhere with you, & you will find sleeping in the Mtn a luxury to a night's lodging in his straw. However, if you take up with any of his neighbors, you will get body lice into the bargain. There dwells some rich Mtn a few miles from Fred's, & he can pilot you along the Pigeon River as far as you choose to go. He is a real specimen of a N.C. hunter. A visit to him would be a good study for you. You will not know the extremes of life without it. I slept in his house three nights, I believe. After wandering about here to your satisfaction, you can return to your horses & take the road over to Newport. - [Your route to Pisgah will be for 8 or 10 miles on your way to Waynesville.]

Should you conclude not to go to Waynesville &c. then you might as well descend the French Broad. In that case, instead of following my Itinerary from Burnsville to the Warm Springs, you had better go from Burnsville to Asheville (31 miles) & then down the French Broad to Greenville. - Beyond Haywood, the interest of our Flora diminishes, though Marion has some peculiarities. - Should you be disposed to visit Flat Rock, Henderson Co Mtn, you will find some districts partaking a little of our low country pine woods, & with a little of its peculiar vegetation. You will find this sort on the road leading out from Flat Rock to where Mr. Lowndes purchased a seat some years ago. Here is where

Solidago crebrifolia. "Stem firmly erect, 4-6 ft: high, glabous except in the panicle, tinged with purple, slightly marked by the decurrent leaves, terminated by a showy panicle 12-18 in: long. Leaves numerous, erect, very gradually diminishing in size from the base to the summit of the stem, lower ones 3-4 in: long, at the base of the panicle 1-1½, lanceolate, subpetiolate, glabous with scabous margins, crenate with a glandular tip, veins rather prominent beneath, very acute, with the point recurved. Branches of the panicle recurved, pubescent, the lowerones 4-5 in: long, leafy for half their length, the rest gradually diminishing & leafless. Florets of the ray 8-10, little longer than the disk; of the disk 5-7. Involucre glabous, the leaflets linear obtuse. Pedicels pubescent. Achaenia hairy.

Hab: borders of woods & thickets near the mouth of the Cape Fear, Brunswick Co N.C.! Fl. Sept. Oct!

The above is taken from my description written 10 yrs ago from the living plant! I have just given it a new examination, & although closely allied to S. pilosa, Walt. I think it distinct unless you can furnish some good connecting links. Let us compare the two & see about it.

S. crebrifolia.	S. pilosa.
Leaves crowded, erect, lanceolate, subpetioled, glabous, veins rather prominent beneath, very acute with a recurved point, paler beneath.	Leaves rather loose, spreading, lanceoblong, sessile, subamplexicaule, scabous, the midrib villous beneath: the veins not prominent; acutish with a glandular tip, green both sides.
Stem very smooth.	Stem villous.
Involucre, leaflets linear obtuse, the interior about the length of the pappus.	Involuc: glabous, leaflets lance-linear, acute, interior longer than the pappus.
Flor: of the ray 8-10, of the disk 5-7.	Flor: of the ray about 7, of the disk about 5.
Achaenia hairy	Achaenia hairy.

S. pilosa, in my specimen, has a much more diffuse panicle, the lower branches being very long & leafy like S. altissima. but this may not be constant. — But the heads are fewer fl.ers, the leaflets of the Involv: more acute & proportionally longer, & the base of the leaves different. — You now have all I can say upon the matter. I wait your decision. Mine I do not regard as of much consequence against yours.

The following remarks you will hardly need as you have specimens of your own. You told me however to name it, & I have been seeing what I could make of the plant.

Geum Macreanum. Stem sparingly branched above; flowers few (?), at first nodding, then erect. Petals dull white with purplish veins, cuneate obovate (not obcordate) about equal to the lance-ovate, acuminate, erect, calyx. Head of carpels sessile. Upper joint of the style nearly twice the length of the lower, plumose; lower joint pilose below with glandular, jointed hairs; smooth above. Achaenia very hairy. — Obs. The hairs on the lower joint of the style are different from those on the upper joint & achaenia, but like those on the lower surface of the very pubescent calyx.

In some respects this seems to be like G. rivale, but it cannot be that. In others it looks much like the G. geniculatum. I do not know how much dependence should be placed upon the pubescence of the lower joint of the style, but I should think that the relative length of the upper & lower joints might be worth something. If you have a head of Michaux' plant, you can determine how the matter stands in regard to this point. I have underscored the characters above wherein this plant seems to differ from Michaux. If his plant was certainly from Canada, there would then be a presumption to help one out in the settlement of the question. With the means in my profession I should hate to decide. I originally called it G. geniculatum because I saw it was not G. rivale.

Henchera hispida, Pk. I have been looking at the diagnostic characters of this and pubescens as given in the Flora, & I do not discover characters which give them very essential difference. You have seen the hispida & perhaps found it a distinct plant; but I should like to know whether you compared the two together so carefully as to leave no doubt of their distinctness. They are certainly very much alike.

Henchera ~~villosa, Mich.~~ caulescens, Pk. — I forgot to tell you that this plant is common on rocks up the North Cove where old Michaux must have seen it in company with his Veratrum parviflorum & the Astilbe, all which are abundant up there, & which he could not have well overlooked, if he went up there. That he did go up there is every way probable, from its being the only good herborizing ground near his first residence, & from the fact that the Catawba comes from the head of the Cove, up which he would naturally wend his course in search of plants. Two or three miles would bring him into the very region of the above plants. Then again it is so common all over our Mts from Yancey! to Macon! that I do not see how he could have overlooked it.

Thalictrum filipes. Pretty much the same kind of reasoning applies to this plant, but we have already talked this over. I will only record the prophecy that this will prove the T. clavatum, D.C. with whose description it agrees very well as far as it goes.

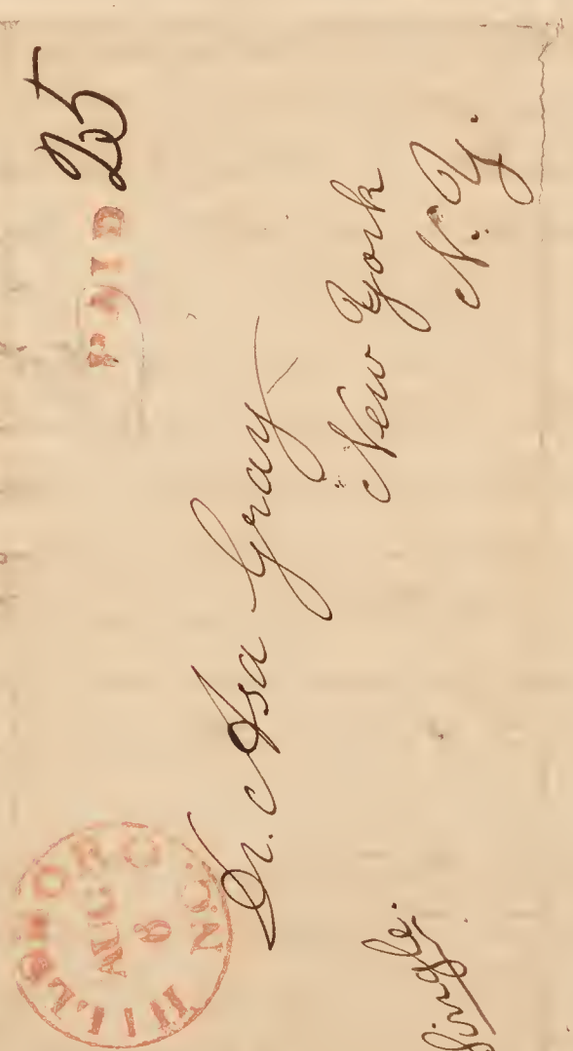
Malva Houghtonii. It strikes me that I have before suggested that this might perhaps be M. triangulata, Leav: I have nothing but the short description of it in Bot: Man: but as far as it goes, it seems to apply well enough. I had so labelled it in my Herb: where it has lain several years. It is from Lincoln Co.ty, & was discovered by my friend Dr. C.L. Hunter.

Vulgar names of plants. If you wish it I can give you a good many for the plants of this State.

Hillsborough. Aug: 5th 1841.

Dear Sir. – I did not intend sending this sheet so soon, but as I have filled it, I may as well send now as any time. And now I have written it, it does not seem to be of any value, excepting perhaps the notes upon Solidago at the beginning which I promised to send you.

I wish you would send me a copy of any articles you may prepare for Silliman's Journal, when you have spare sheets of them, particularly what you may prepare in reference to your late tour. If you will help me out with those plants which I proposed as new, perhaps I will follow with an article myself.



twice

Do not forget to send me No. 5. of N.A. Flora, for I shall not be quite myself until I get it, though your visit has helped to relieve me somewhat by furnishing my mind something in the same line to feed upon. – Please to tell Dr. Torrey that I have heard of a parcel in Washington, which I suppose is the one he had for me from Lapham. It has not yet come to hand. – I shall be glad to hear from you at any time. If I can do anything for you in the botanical line I shall be very happy to do it.
My respects to Torrey & Carey – – very truly your friend
M. A. Curtis.

Remarks upon this parcel of Plants

add. Ulmus in my exp. 2

Ambrosia. — This may be common elsewhere, but as it is a new form to me, I send it as a curiosity (?).

Aster gracilis. You pronounced this to be a. gracilis with some doubt. Will you do me the favor to compare it, & let me know certainly what it is?

Acerates. I cannot make this out, & should much like your opinion upon it.

Baptisia mollis. I obtained this near Table Mt. on my last visit there. The fruit is young, but larger than you have described it in the Flora, I believe.

Carphephorus bellid. I send you this, because from a new locality, where it abounds!

Eupatorium (a). A specimen of this was sent to Torrey many years ago, & with the same letter of reference. I cannot make it out. What is it?

Leiophyllum. I send this, thinking that perhaps you have not received it from a locality so far south. It is the plant of my Catalogue.

Marshallia lanceolata, var: This has wider leaves than common.

Pycnanthemum Tullia, from Wilmington. This is, I believe, the P. verticillatum of my Catalogue. Am I right now?

Pycnanth. from Whiteside Mt. I should like your opinion on this, if you can form one. The taste is almost exactly like Peppermint.

Papaver Rheas. Is this right? dubium.

Thalictrum, from Bald Mt. This seems to have fruit with longer stipes than you have described it. I am very suspicious that you have quashed some real species in this Genus.

Thermopsis. The best specimen I have.

viola hastata .+. This is the true plant. I send it for your inspection, because I am suspicious that you have not seen the Simon pure, or else have joined another species to it. Certainly the plant sent me by Chapman under this name is a different species.

The plant found at Bath, I take to be an Exotic. I found but one root. I should like to know what it is.

The *Umbelliferae* bother me. They are different, in some respects, from anything I have.

W. M. Curtis.

Geranium dissectum. Did you ever see Bigelow's plant, which is abundant about Boston? The carpels have glandular hairs, which is not the case with G. Carolinianum, so common at the south. I have not the plants by me to give other differences.

p. 361. line 1. After "stout", insert leaflets.

Passiflora incarnata. The crown is described as "triple"; but the outer series is double, (sometimes quadruple, the two inner rows of filaments very short), & there are three distinct inner series of short erect filaments, according to late observations made by myself.

Ludwigia uniflora is quoted under both L. alternifolia, & Jussiaea decurrens, var B. — The latter is the right one.

Hypobrichia should be Hypobrychia, it being from ὑπόβρυχιος — and my name is M. A. Curtis.

Magnolia grandiflora has the petals 4-5 in: long. M. macrophylla, 6-7 in: oftener & commonly 7!

Thalictrum filipes is 6-12 in: high! Is T. clavatum?

Hibiscus Carolin: (p. 237.) — There is no such island in Georgia as "Wilmington Island", as I was informed by Mr. Bemler; But he could not recal the true name.

Croom's name (p. 663) is not Henry, but Hardy.

Aesculus flava. On our high Mts this is a stately tree, but I have never been able to get the flowers. The dwarf plant alluded to Elliott is common along water courses in our middle country, & perhaps, as it is always a mere shrub, it may be distinct from the other. I shall have the means of studying it next Spring, as it grows close by me, though not of comparing it with the other. In its general habit, it resembles Ae. Pavia, which belongs to the low country.

Ludwigia microcarpa. The stigma is not sessile!

Diamorpha pusilla. "Flat Rock" is near Camden S. Car: & that is where Nutt: got his plants. I made enquiries of the place when in S. Car. ten years ago. — It is not in this State! — I recieved this plant last year from a small mountain near Salisbury, N. C.

Have you ever seen *Amychia hermiarioides*, Herb. Ell? — Is it not your *A. Baldwinii*?

Astragalus Canadensis. In dry woods, this is ~~1 ft.~~ 1–3 ft. high, along our river courses 6–10 ft. *A. Carolin*: Ell. if I recollect right, is not *A. Canad*: but similar to *A. glaber*.

Will Dr. Gray see to having N. A. V. & A. Flora sent to me forthwith?

Can he procure Endlicher's Gen: Plant: for me?

Recd Jan 29 1842. Hillsborough N.C. Nov. 22. 1841.

Dear Sir,

Your letter with your Journal of an Excursion were very acceptable. I am much obliged to you for the determination of some of my plants. — I suspect, though I have had no opportunity of comparing them, that my Cherokee Lindernia (if it be a Lindernia, for I never examined it particularly) will be different from L. reflexa. I looked for my Vaccinium virgatum two years ago in Michaux, but could not find it. Yet it will be strange if he has not got it. My Ulmus is certainly the same with the N. Hampshire plant. I had suspected it might turn out to be the undulata. — Carex aestivalis is certainly distinct from C. gracillima, that's poz. — Pycnanthemum Monardella? I had already referred to Tullia. My Spiraea I must give up, as you say so, but I had compared it with the common forms of S. salicifolia, as far as the leaves go, until I could not think them alike. The distinctive characters of Solidago ulmifolia and S. pilosa, are partially incorrect as I gave them in my last letter, so far as the leaves & form of the panicle are concerned. I was aware of it being S. elliptica in Herb. Ell. and thought I had so stated in a letter to Torrey.

With your Journal I was highly interested, and have read it over several times. I gathered from it ten additional species to my N. Carolin list, which added to about a dozen which you gave me before, makes over twenty, which I had not seen in this State, & which you detected in your short journey. I wish I could get hold of old Michaux' Journal. I have half a mind

to write to Col. Davenport, and see if he cannot furnish some reminiscences of Michaux. I think I told you the thoughts that passed through his mind while the Frenchman shouted his 'vive la Liberté' upon the top of Grandfather. Why didn't you put in a note what I told you about his driving his Assistant away from him? He was a furious old fellow. Perhaps you believe in "nil mortuis nisi bonum".

Of the plants enumerated in your Journal as collected in this State, of which you gave me no specimens, & which I never saw, I wish you would send me Aconitum reclinatum, Asplenium montanum, Oxyenanthemum dubium, & P. pilosum, β leptodon. P. pilosum I have from the Western States. I should also be glad to get, if you can spare them, P. dilatatum & P. Torrei, also Carex Sullivantii.

I found here this Fall two Asters which I have not found before in this State I think + A. puniceus?, & A. concinnus? - I have not yet examined them carefully. The first is correct I think. These with A. grandiflorus, I will send you by the first opportunity.

In a note to your Journal p. 8. have you not erred in saying that Nuttall has found the Diamorpha near Salisbury, N. C.? — In p. 50. you speak of finding the larger form of Bacopis amicalata with nearly all the leaves undivided. I found it on Turkey Mt. (Burke Co.?) with all the leaves undivided, 2-3 ft. high, unless I mistake the plant. You will find a spec: in Herb. Tor. — I was glad to see a remark, p. 42, which leads me to suppose that, a notice of what I deem an erect form of Hedyotis serpyllifolia in the Flora was rather inconsiderately made.

I have written to Moody offering him $5.00. for 100 specimens of Carex Fraseriana, but have yet got no reply. I do not like putting H. tenuifolia under H. longifolia in the Flora. But I do like your remarks in the Journal about Heuchera villosa & canescens. I will write about H. Curtisii, when I get my Herbarium, if I have a specimen. I have a "Heuchera" from Alabama, sent by Buckley, which looks like a n. sp. of Boykinia. Have you got it? He sent me several strange things, but it was the meanest parcel of specimens I ever saw. Are all his collections so?

I have a few corrections for the Flora.

Vol: I. p. 605. l. 24. for "vesicles" read scales. — 2nd ed. p. 309. l. 5 from bottom, for "alternate" read alternate. — p. 621. l. 9. after "segments", insert of the leaves. — Vol: II. p. 73. l. 28. for "larger", read longer. — p. 139. l. 21 from bottom, (under A. longifolius) what is meant by "broadly scabrous"? — p. 138. under A. laxifolius, line 1, what is the meaning of "stem..... narrow"? Can't you make a great mystery out of Aster reticulatus, Ell., but I have no doubt of it's being Diplopappus obovatus. (Doubleday)

I wrote to Darlington some time since, requesting him to send you two specimens, if they remained, of Thermopsis Carol:, one for yourself & one for Bentham. He has all the undistributed specimens extant. — Whew! — I have just discovered my mistake. He has not got them, though he has a parcel of plants collected by Reinhardt, who accompanied me in my last mountain tour, which I brought home & sent to D. to forward to Reinhardt. We have neither of us been able to hear of him, since he so abruptly left me in Macon Co. N. C. He took several specimens of the Thermopsis, but he carried them with him & where they are now is more than I know. Buckley will be in our Mts. next Summer & I will direct him how to find the plant. It must be a rare plant I think. — — — — I have been sometime looking for a No. of the Flora, as Wiley & Putnam advertised No. 2. Vol. II. as in press, in their September Advertiser! A trick of the trade I suppose. They further state the probable

conclusion of vol: II. next Spring. I wish it might be so!
I have lately got hold of my old acquaintance & correspondent again, John Darby, who it seems, has been publishing something. He says that you speak of it in Sill. Journ: as well as he expected. He wants me to join him in the preparation of a 2nd edition, which I have advised him to postpone until your great work is finished. I do not see how I can help him very much. He speaks of sending you some plants pretty soon, & I have urged him strongly to do so.

Hillsboro nd
Dec 25

Dr. Asa Gray
New York
N. Y.

Rec my respects to Torrey & Carey. Oh! has not Carey an excellent letter from Europe a few days since, touching the condition of the Fl. Exploration of Asia Co? —

I hope to get my books & Herbarium soon, when I mean to go to work again after a remission of more than two years.
What do you think of calling that doubtful Solidago, (so much like S. caesia) S. caesioides? — I suspect that you will make it S. caesia, var: after all. I have only a remembrance of its general aspect.
Let me hear from you whenever you can find time.
Very respectfully — M. A. Curtis.

Answd Mar 7 3

Hillsborough N.C. Feb: 5th 1842

My Dear Sir,

Yours of the 29th ult. arrived this morning. I am glad that you can find time now & then to give me a letter. This is interesting on several accounts, but particularly as it begins to let a little light in upon Helianthus — named after the sun, yet has ever been to me the darkest body of plants in our whole Flora. H. Schweinitzii has come out, as I anticipated, an undescribed species, yet I never dared to meddle with it. — The "unusual state", as you call it of H. giganteus, is not so unusual in this State. H. (c) or (d) is H. strictifolius of my catalogue.

I see that you have changed your opinion about Boltonia having more than one species in our Flora. You may perhaps recollect our differing on that point when you were here. My opinion was based on this new coster (bb) as I ticketed it for Torrey, before examining the plant. I have never found it except at Lower-bleck, Cleaveland Co N.C., in low swampy ground. This Co N.C. was a part of Burke two years ago. — This reminds me that the localities of Sarracenia rubra & Lilium pilosa should be Flat Rock, Henderson Co N.C., formerly a part of Buncombe. But this matters little. By the way, I cannot identify L. pilosa in my Herb., as I have no specimen marked to correspond with the one I sent Torrey. Indeed I have neglected

to put my mark (+) upon several plants sent him, which were the only specimens I had. I must soon endeavor to make out a list of them. All I can remember at present is Datura Metel. I am anxious to get sight of Aster gracilentus, so that I can put my friend Gentlunter on its track, who lives in Lincoln.

I found Heuchera sanguinea in a collection of plants made by a lady near Elizabeth city in this state, who said that it was growing wild where she found it, but it was near the site of an old house. ——— As to Solidago cuneifolia, you can call it what you like. I am not entitled to the naming of it as I know of. Its Synonymic data of my catalogue, to which I elliptica All! may be added to be annexed as a synonyme, but may cautiously pushed in as a separate species. S. cuneifolia got in under Silphium. I do not know how the printer managed to work the confusion.

Yes, I commissioned you to get Sudbeck for me, & you took a memorandum of it. You has never rendered an account of the $50. sent him. If he has as much as $10. unexpended you may purchase Sudbeck for me, & I will send you the remainder when you let me know how much it is. I wish you would do it soon, as our merchants will be visiting N. York in a few weeks & will attend to the matter for me. After that, it will be difficult to make a remittance before our next Fall. I wish you would also get Plants Exsicc. III. for me. I have I & II. — Schweinitz Fungi. I was examining a few Thyrenosporae the other day & thought I discovered that — Physalospora Fungi, is your P. Peckii (P. gigas, Fungi in Fasc.). My specimens frequently come shod with this account of P. fascicularis in Herb. Mich. with P. 6-7 annual & the setae 6-10. — Is not this P. glomerata var? P. pomi P. fasciculata? — And is he not right in making it a var: of P. glans? — I wish I could be in Chicago with Torrey's material to work over that genus about a month. I like it better than ever.

Is not my Lindenia from Chicopee a nov: spec:? — I have not yet compared it with your Mich: specimens, but shall soon do so. ——— I was looking over my Sagittaria a few days since, when I found Sagittaria variabilis from Wilmington, agreeing exactly with a specimen from Torrey & one from Buckley. Is it common? I find in my Herb. Oenanthemum fistulosum & Hypericum from Wilmington. The next I shall send you, together with a fruiting specimen of Sapindus mollis! which I lately found among my plants marked "near Table Mt.!". Specimens of this from Hunter have not yet been received. The is of slow motion, but when I get them, you shall have a share. I have got about a dozen plants ready to send you my first opportunity.

I see by the papers that there is a Journal of a tour to the Mts. of N.C. in the last No. of Sill. Journ: — Have you written another paper on the subject, or is this a notice of an old one? ——— I have lately written two long letters to Buckley, furnishing an Itinerarium of his tour next Summer, in which I have brought him up as far as French Broad river. The remainder I shall give bye & bye. I hope he will spend the whole season in our Mts. I have pointed out several districts that I venture to say have never been explored except by hunters. Has your Swiss or German Botanist got into N.C. yet?

I shall look with eagerness for the forthcoming 2d No. of the Flora, & hope you will see that "hiroos" are promptly sent. — — I am truly sorry that Nuttall has picked up my Asplenium; — after all, I had pretty much given it up, after you told me that you believed it to be one of the known species.
Did I not tell you of Engelmann's discoveries in N. American Cuscutas? — He has found two distinct genera & 5 species!! Engelmann Speaks.

Can you tell me anything about Dr. Durieu? Nearly a year ago he proposed an exchange with Kew, promising to send a package right off. [illegible] and never heard from him since. [illegible] to send me [illegible] plants [illegible]. I know that he sent another parcel to [illegible] me, which may come in season for accompanying the [illegible].

[illegible]
Asa Gray

Answd April 20.

Under Solidago spiciformis, the words "Lefs: in Linnæa l.c." seem to refer to a similar citation under the following species. In other words, the formae citatio=nis (to use a theological phrase) seem to have chan=ged places.

In your observations under S. californica, you com=pare the leaves with those of S. ovalifolia, where I suppose you mean S. petiolaris, the succeeding species.

If your specimens of S. neglecta, which you attrib=ute to N. Carolina, were derived from me, the locality is wrong; for all my specimens of that species were collected near Boston! I should like to know about this. Why S. (t.) was collected near Boston!

p. 218. line 10 & 11. for "appropriates" read appropriateness.

Solidago verna. It seems to me that the general habit of this plant is very different from that of the group in which you have arranged it. Ought it not to stand with S. patula? If you have any specimens with erect racemes, they are imperfect or immature. I have seen hundreds growing, & they generally have a loose panicle of a few recurved branches. Then the form & venation of the leaves seem to range more with the patula group than with the virgata, do they not? — As to the secund racemes, why, do the best you can.

Hillsborough N.C. March 14th 1842

Dear Sir,

The above points arested attention as I perused the proofs you sent, & which may be of service to you. I have recd but one package, comprising two & a half sheets. If others were sent they have not yet reached me. This is of little consequence however, as I shall look for the whole number soon. I wish you would send me the Number by mail, as soon as possible.

If you will deposit the parcel you have got ready for me (Endlicher & plants) at Wiley & Putnam's, I will get some friend from here to call & get it. — Perhaps that firm will be willing to keep open account with me till I can make remittance. Perhaps I can arrange with one of the Merchants from this place to take up the account for me, if you or Torrey will previously hand over to said firm the balance coming to me. I originally intended that this balance should be applied to the payment for the N.A. Flora; — but as that has now passed out of your hands, I will settle with W. & P. for it in another way.

I am glad that you have a "Handbook" in embryo. I hope though, that you do not intend to give it that name, when we already have an English word meaning the same thing, & which is much more euphonic. Our language has been barbarized too much already by foreign admixtures, to have a regular built German word ingrafted where there is no need of it.

I have been lately consulted by a Teacher in Petersburg, Virg.a (Mr. Twomey) who is something of a Botanist, as to a suitable Text Book for Schools. I could do nothing but say, get Eaton's Manual or Gray's Elements, according to what he proposed teaching. At the same time I called all the Troy books quackery, & urged the claim of the Elements. I will now write him again, informing him of your intention, upon which he will undoubtedly act in his arrangements.

Botany is but little studied in any of the Schools of this State. As far as I can, I will help the spread of your books. It is high time that Eaton, Lincoln, Comstock, &c. should meet their deaths. I think it shameful, that the latter has been permitted to realize a fortune from the sale of scientific text books in the whole cycle of the sciences, about none of which did he know even the elements. I have never read one of his books, but I acquire the above opinion from a curious tale told me by Bachman. He told me that while examining the flowers in Hogg's establishment, he was accosted by a stranger with — "you appear to be acquainted with Botany Sir — how long will it take me to write a book upon the subject?" — "Why, that will depend upon how much you know of it."

"Oh, I know nothing at all. But I have published books on Chemistry, Philosophy, &c. &c. & knew nothing more about them." — L. Bachman found the stranger to be Comstock. — Well sure enough, the very year Bachman told me this tale I saw Comstock's Botany advertised! I never heard of a more impudent piece of quackery, & the man that can be guilty of it ought to be published from Maine to Florida.

The person I intend to trouble with my commission to N. York will leave here in eight or ten days. I shall try to get him to take a <u>leetle</u> parcel of plants for you in his trunk, to be left with Wiley & Putnam.

You have appealed to me in your A.J. Journal to complete the account of Heuchera Curtisii, but Torrey has the only specimen I collected. If it has not the mark (+) it ought to have. I shall by & by make a list of such things that I want returned. I have had a struggle with myself whether I ought not to let Torrey have all these single specimens, but I cannot make up my mind to lose them. Then again, if I have them in hand, I stand a better chance of procuring more from friends to whom I can show the specimens. If I can get this Heuchera & Aster gracilentus by May, I may be able to procure specimens this next season.

I got a letter lately from one Mead in Illinois, who says he was advised by yourself to make acquaintance with me. I never heard of him before. Who is he? & what sort of a Botanist is he? — By the way, the prettiest specimens I have ever received, not excepting Short's, are from Lapham.

Your Boltonia glastifolia, var: B.? is, I reckon, nothing more than a casual variation from the usual form. I have B. glastifolia from Short, collected in "wet prairies of Illinois" with none of those marks by which your var B.? is characterized.

Dr. Asa Gray
New York
N.Y.

MAR 25

I believe I must venture a remark upon your arrangement of Solidago petiolaris. I am for putting it next to S. squarrosa. For 1st. their habit as to inflorescence is similar. 2nd. There is a tendency in the involucre of S. petiol: to become squarrose, which is sometimes quite manifest, as in var: squarrulosa, & even in the more common form. I have a specimen from Chapman which he labelled S. squarrosa. 3rd. A few of the longer bristles of the pappus are as manifestly clavellate thickened at the apex as in S. squarrosa !! I deem this a pretty strong case, & should like to have you review the matter & give me your opinion. — I have S. squarrosa from the Mts of N.C.! — — Kind regards to Dr. Torrey & Mr. Carey.

very truly yours &c.

M. A. Curtis

Recd 20th Apl Hillsborough, N.C. April 5. 1842

Dear Sir,

"I now take my pen in hand to in: form you", that I have put a little parcel of plants which I promised you, into a box containing some packages for Buckley, & directed to him, care of Torrey. The box will go to Petersburg in a few days, & be shipped to N. York. You can open the box & get your plants. I was much disappointed in not being able to send your parcel by a Merchant from this place, but he left a full week earlier than he appointed, & when I went to arrange matters with him, lo! he was gone!

I saw a letter from N. York yesterday stating that a call had been made at Wiley & Putnam's for a package for me, but could find nothing. A promise was made to call again. — Now, if it has not been sent with the goods for our merchants here, will you do me the favor to ship it, as quick as you can, to Petersburg, care of J. G. Mc Pheeters.

Your Carol: Excursion pleases the folks at our University very much. Pres.t Swain has requested me to copy it for our Newspaper here, believing that it will be copied thence into our other papers & read with interest". I have undertaken the job, & will send you the parts as they come out. In order to render it popular, I am obliged to leave out all the techni:

calities, where I cannot get corresponding English, & thus you will find that I have taken pretty severe liberties with your article. The part relating to your own visit, I find I shall have to cut down to almost nothing.

I do not know yet where Buckley is. When I hear from him, I will comply with your request, saving only that portion which concerns Sir. William. Hooker & I do not speak, as the boys say. He must henceforth look elsewhere for aid than to me, until I get an assurance that he has never made any use of the plants I sent him.

On p. 33. of your Carol. Excursion, the character which you quote from Haworth, of his Robertsonia micranthe~~fala~~ must certainly be drawn from our Saxifraga leucanthemifolia. Now, did not Haworth, seeing or supposing that our plant was different from S. Clusii & its varieties, unguardedly take it for S. erosa? – The latter he certainly had not in view in his description, unless in an abnormal state.

I have rec^d another sheet of proof from your Flora, containing a portion of Helianthus &c. In looking at your H. laevigatus, it occured to me that I had the plant. Your account of the leaves however does not correspond with my plant, since they are as narrow as those of H. Schweinitzii. But with this exception, your character holds good. Now let us see, if we cannot determine whether your specimen came from me. I sent one to Torrey, marked "Helianthus (1.)", which I collected in Lincoln Co^y, N. C. – Well, ~~besides~~, if you cannot find my label so marked, you may take it for half granted, that H. laevigatus is from me. Besides this, I have sent to Torrey H. (2), (3), (4), (5), (a+), (b), (c), (d), (aa+), angustifolius, & hirsutus. For (b), (c), (d), (2), (3), (4), (5), & hirsutus, you have accounte to me in late letters; the angustifolius may be put out of the question. Now there remain only (a+), (aa+) & (1.) unaccounted for. As the two first are marked to be returned, I suppose you can tell what they are. Then only H. (1) remains, which, as you have not noticed it, & it is a new species if not H. laevigatus, I have come to the conclusion that the label is lost, or you would certainly have reported on it, & that it is truly your H. laevigatus. Your specimen may have broader leaves than mine, from a lower part of the stem.

I wish you would look into this matter, & let me know about it. I would send a specimen if I had a spare one, & settle the question at once. After all I have very little doubt about it. When I get N^o 6, & am prepared to work over the whole genus, then I will settle the matter by book.

I am getting impatient about N^o 6. Why does it not come on, as you finished the last proof as long ago as the 19^th ult.?

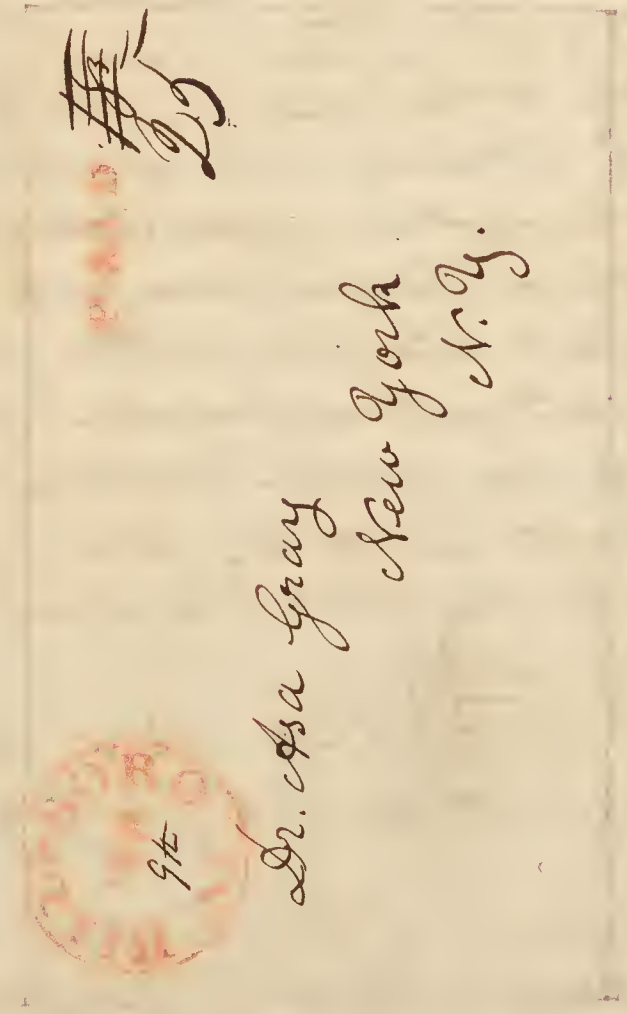
Ap. 8^th. The parcels of plants have left for Petersburg, & so you may expect yours in the course of a fortnight. It is of little value, but I hope you will find something worth the having. With this letter I send a Newspaper containing first part of Carol: Excursion. This is nearly entire; the subsequent parts will be much mutilated.

* I find that this (a.+) was returned by Torrey several years since; & is a broad leaved form of H. angustifolius (?) the leaves not revolute.

Give my respects to Torrey & Carey. What has become of my old friend Alonzo Clark? —

very truly your friend.

M. A. Curtis.



Hillsborough. 9th: 25. 1842

My Dear Sir,

I cannot make out this species of Helianthus by your book, & hence I take it to be new. It is found only in Macon Co.ty, at least I could not find it elsewhere. I was at once struck with its appearance, but as it was just coming into flower I got but one specimen, thinking I should get perfect specimens in Cherokee. On my return I forgot to collect it. I think I can get a plenty from McDowell this season, as it grows all around him, on the borders of woods, fields, & waste grounds, where the soil is rich. It is entirely distinct from any thing I have got, & I have Nos. 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 19, 21, 22, 23?, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, & 37, of your species. I ought to have mentioned that the disk is yellow. This cannot be any of your species... I have been looking over the Genus to day, having rec.d the Flora a few days since, & I am now satisfied that your H. laevigatus came from me.

I have a piece of good news for you. A few days ago I found Baptisia mollis on one of the hills near this place. It is the real Simon of Michaux, & of Nuttall, though the latter seemed to have had a smoother form like the one I lately sent you. Unfortunately I was too late to find many in good flower, but I have half a dozen specimens that will do very well, & you & Torrey shall have one. Suppose I send you roots & seeds? Hogg can cultivate them for you. Next year I shall take the plant in season & collect enough for use. It is a very pretty plant. But what a legume it has!

I find what I take to be Barbarea praecox abundantly naturalized here. It answers to the characters given in the books very well. I will send you a specimen of this also when I send you another package, which will probably be next Fall.

Aph: 26th. — Yours of Aph: 20. has come to hand. Geum Macreanum has turned out as I strongly suspected it would. — As to Solidago neglecta — I probably sent it in a lump with others while last resident at Boston, indicating the whole suite as collected near there. I had not then learned how to do things properly. — I notice that you do not always give extensive range enough to your species. Some N. B. plants you limit north & south of the State; & in two or three instances, species that I have sent to Torrey from N. Car:

Prionopsis(?) Chapmanii, has a white flower, fide Chapman, my specimens are old, & the rays gone. I should say that the pappus was persistent, as it stands firm on the mature achenia! The achenia rather turgid.

Dr. Asa Gray
New York
City.

We can speak of the excursion with more certainty a year hence. — I have not heard from Buckley yet — took the field with his summer, early, & Clark. yours truly, Mellichampi.

Torrey.

I am a little surprised at my friend Hunter, to whom I must attribute the invention of the novel mode of exchange, for surely Sparrow could not have interest enough in the subject to devise it. Dr. H. is a very modest good man, but may not have sufficient data, from a knowledge of the world, for coming at a right opinion in a matter of this kind. The best men sometimes take up queer notions. I have been sometime intending to write to him, & will endeavor to set him right. This parcel sent to Torrey accounts for his neglect of me the last two years, at which I have been much surprised. If there is any thing in it, which you have never rec'd from me, I wish you would give me a list. — As to an excursion with you sometime hence, — I should delight in it, but cannot now promise. Should I remain in this place, I intend, if possible, to take a month next year for an excursion to Yancey, & shall choose the month of August.

Helianthus Dowellianus; Stem stout, 4-5 ft: high, glabrous, striate sulcate; leaves large, the lower opposite, the upper alternate, slightly dentate serate, broadly ovate, petioled, (the petioles connate,) rather thick, strongly 3-nerved, obtuse, nearly smooth, the margins scarcely scabrous. Flowers on long axillary slender branchlets, which are mostly 1 flowered; scales of the involucre attenuate-lanceolate, rather shorter than the disk, appressed, slightly ciliate; Ray Florets 12-15, ½ inch long. Chaff entire. Pappus lanceolate, as long as the ovary; Achenia (immature) glabrous except the angles.

The lower leaves of this plant, are 6-7 inches long. [This is an accurate outline of nat: size. of one.] The petioles 2½-3 inches, & equalling the internodes. The upper leaves are distant & smaller, short petioled. & more dis- tinctly serate. The branches loosely pan- iculate, like H. microcephi: or three of Only two- pair of the lower are op: leaves posite. The chaff very acute. glabrous & are about The flowers decapetalus. the size of H almost smooth to The whole plant is summits of the branches. the feel, except the seen short & widely scat- Under a lens, there is sides of the leaves, which tered pubescence on both are nearly the same color both sides.

Of this plant, which I have here described at random, I have but a single specimen, which I must send you for in- spection some time. I have named it after a friend of mine by the name of McDowell, in whose neighborhood it grows, & who has kindly furnished me some plants.

P.S. Another erratum. P. 247. l. 6. for "pellucid-paniculate" read pell:-punctate. Chrysopsis dentata grows at Wilmington. You are quite right in joining it to C. gossypina. If you had looked at the last edition of my Enum: you would have seen that I published Silphium terebinth: β sinuatum, & that the plant extends into Virginia!

I hear nothing yet of the parcel you had in hand for me. I hope it is on the way, as I am quite impatient in regard to a portion of it.

Shall we not have another Number of the Flora next Fall? I am eager for its completion. I notice a couple of errata in the last No. Page 261, l. 24. for "serrile" read sessile. P. 285. l. 2. for "Artimesifolia" read Artemisiæfolia. These are all I have yet noticed.

Engelmann writes me that he makes 7 species of Cuscuta! American botanists will be stumped if he proves his point; & I have no means of gainsaying him. Still I am rather incredulous at present. I have sent him all I had, which was only a N. Car: & a Mass: specimen, which appear to me identical. He says he got a new species from you, collected in Virginia. I mean to examine such specimens as I can find this season, & see how many more species I can detect.

The conclusion of Gray's Carol: excursion I did not send you, as no papers were reserved for me. You will see however from the previous parts, how I have served you. I understand that the paper has been in great demand westward of this, & has excited much curiosity.

I have been in correspondence with your friend Levi Moody for the procuring of Carex Fraseriana; for 100 specimens I am to give $5.00. What say you to an offer for another hundred? He can as well get two parcels as one while he is about it. He readily recognized the plant & sent me a leaf. I have given minute instructions for collecting & preserving. I have half a mind to make a running trip to Grandfather this Fall, but am afraid I cannot raise the money. I intend however to visit Pilot Mt., though Schweinitz has raked up everything there. But I have never been in that region & desire to see it.

Hillsborough, N.C. Aug. 1st 1842.

Dear Sir,

I was truly glad to hear from you again after so long an interval. I had seen a notice of your election in the papers, & presuming that you would accept it, supposed that you would be rather more busy than usual for awhile — too busy to write on matters so unimportant as mine. Your letter has internal evidence of having been written in no little haste. Your usual accuracy of reference is not exhibited in this letter. The two or three palpable errors make me dubious how far I may trust the remainder. But it il imports. You make no allusion to my Helianthus described & partly figured in my last letter to you. I am sorry for this, as I am very impatient for a decision upon the matter. It must be a new species, or else I have overlooked some very important points in the case. You will see plenty of it this Fall, as I have pointed out its exact locality to Buckley. If this is new, I shall name it after McDowell, & change the name of my Hypericum to H. Buckleii. Mr. B. has sent me this plant in flower; it is pretty, & must be new. I suppose Buckley gives you an account of his doings, so that I need say nothing upon that head. I will only mention, that if he has

raised your expectations at all by the promise of a beau-
tiful new Genus, it is unfortunately Talinum teretifolium!

I cannot agree with you about my Marshallia lanc:
eolata, B. – It is intermediate between lanceolata & latifolia, –
is caulescent like the latter, but has the head, involucre, & fl.
exactly like the former. I shall be very positive upon this, until
you decide against me after a careful comparison of the
specimens. I take this to be Athanasia obovata, Walt.

I shall be glad to receive your Text Book. I had intended
to send for it this Fall. A Teacher in Petersburg, a corespondent
of mine, has been waiting some time for this book upon my
recommendation, & will want about a dozen copies. I shall
do what I can for its introduction in this State. – And this re-
minds me of Darby. What on earth have you been doing to
him? He seems wofully hurt at some papes you have made
at him about that Book of his. I am sorry for this. He
is an amiable & well disposed man, & although his Bot-
any may be defective, yet is it not worth consideration that
at the time of his publication there was need of something,
& that an imperfect work will be of some service as a pio-
neer? I have not seen his book, & know nothing of its
merits. I expect a call from him this summer on his
way northward. I should judge from his letter, that he
was not likely to honor the Fisher Professor so far. Be as
charitable as you can towards his labors.

I am glad that you are provided for in one of the Atlantic
States. I hope you have a good salary. I can furnish you
with a few of the plants you mention. Aster grandiflorus,
& Baptisia mollis I can get here. Should I go to Raleigh, I
can get Carphephorus bellid: These are all that are within my
reach. I may possibly go to Wilmington in the Fall, & then I can
get Bapt: villosa. B. lanceolata does not grow in this State, neither
have I ever found Liatris elegans or tenuifolia. L. odorat. & Aster
Elliottii, I can find at W, and others.

Torrey is certainly wrong about the plant he calls Ligusticum act:
in my late parcel. The other I had thought might be Archang:
atrop: – – Woody writes me that he has collected over
two hundred of Carex Fraseri, Half of them is on speculation.
If you can suggest a plan for their disposal, please to let
me know it. I have engaged 100 from him on my own account,
for which I give him $5.00. Sent me 101!

Dr. Hunter has desired me to say to you, that he never
dreamed of such a proposition as that made by Mr. Sparrow,
& that it was an unwarranted act on the part of Mr. S.
I knew it was wholly unlike the Doctor, yet I could not
account for such a fabrication by Mr. S. – Dr. H. is
anxious for your report upon his plants.

The plants which you returned to me a couple of months
since were received. Your Asplenium montanum is the same
with what I have from Table & Black Mts. What appears to
be the same grows on rocks near this place, but with more
numerous & narrower pinnae. Your plant approaches A.
lanceolatum nearer than A. Ad. nigrum, I should say.
My Vaccinium ursinum will turn out V. resinosum, I fear.

Should you ever visit the State's Prison, enquire for my
Father, who is Chaplain, & he will be happy to show you any atten-
tion. – I have a Brother in Kilby St. Boston, belonging to the firm
of Kimball, Jewett & Co. whom you can make use of upon occasion;
though, as he is not an educated man, I do not know that there
would be any grounds of special sympathy between you. He is
a clever fellow however, & you might turn him to account perhaps.

Should you meet E. Tuckerman jr. please to give him my present address, & inform him that I wrote to him last Fall soon after seeing his name reported among the passengers from England. I have been surprised at not hearing from him.

Of all the botanical names I have seen, I think Lindley's Isagræa caps the climax. I do not remember its match.

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Prof. Asa Gray, M.D.
Cambridge
Mass.

I shall be glad to hear from you at your leisure. Yours &c

M. A. Curtis

Hillsborough, N. Carolina, Aug: 22.
1842.

Messrs Wiley & Putnam,

I am indebted to you for the following articles procured for me by Dr. Gray.

Endlicher's Genera Plantarum,	$7. 00
Tor: & Gr: Flora of N. America, v. II. Pt. 2.	1. 50
Box of Plants from Missouri,	1. 00
	$9. 50.

The above is the account as given by Dr. Gray. I perceive by your "News Letter" that you have on hand Kunth's Enumeratio Plantarum Vol. III. Please to send me a copy with the other parcel now in your hands for me.

The bearer, Mr. Webb, will settle my acct. with you in full, for which please to send bill & receipt.

I wish also to get the following books.

Butler's Analogy (English Edition.) – Sherlock on Death; – & Sherlock's Trial of the Witnesses. I do not know if the last can be had separately; if not, I should be glad to get it in some other form, so it do not cost more than four or five dollars.

Also, Eaton's Botany (Manual.), any edition, (except the last,) which contains the Grammar of Botany & the Plants of the Southern States. I except the

last edition as too expensive. The 6th or 7th edition is without the Grammar.

All these I desire to be forwarded hither through Mr. Webb.

Respectfully yours

M. A. Curtis.

Messrs Wiley & Putnam

New York

Hillsborough, N.C. Sept: 29th 1842.

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 19th was rec.d this morning, & I hasten to answer in order to bespeak a specimen of Solidago humilis, which I very much desire to have. This is the only species mentioned in your letter which I do not possess, Tuckerman having supplied me with the others, even to Sol: thyrsoidea. I should however like specimens of the Carices of that region, of which my specimens are not quite complete.

Buckley left me yesterday morning for N.Y. having spent one day with me. He has increased my list of N.C. plants with about 20 species, & has added to my Herbarium about 15 that I did not have before. I have been at work upon them to day with much interest. The following plants are those of most interest. Andromeda n.sp.? (A. racem: aff.); Heuchera Curtisii?; A grass from Roan Mt. unknown to me; Arum quinatum; a vaccinium with white semitransparent fruit, of fine flavor, & apparently a var: of V. resinosum; — vaccin: arsinum in good flower, which proves it to be a new species. The flowers are campanulate & not urceolate. Helleborus —, which he was informed came from the Smoky Mts, but I doubt; Asplenium pinnatifidum, Nutt; Heuchera —, perhaps new, allied to villosa; Senecio Canadensis or n.sp. This proves to be the plant of which I sent you the radical leaves from Whiteside Mt., & which you returned as Hymenopappus scabiosaeus. Vaccinium n.sp.? racemes & fruit exceedingly hirsute with bristles, flowers ovoid-cylindric, contracted at the mouth, so

that it cannot belong to the same group with V. hirtellum. Saxifraga careyana in many localities. Borya distichophylla; Viola tripartita; Lindernia, my new sp: found in Georgia; Spiraea lobata; Coreopsis latifolia from Black Mt.; Andromeda ferruginea, near the Warm Springs!! Epilobium spicatum, Mt. near Pisgah! Thermopsis caroliniana, from many new localities. My new Hypericum from many new localities. This is a very showy species, & certainly new. He had no specimens of Helianthus Dowellianus with him, but had sent on some to N. York. You will therefore be able soon to determine what it is. I can make nothing of it.

The plant which I sent you in fruit as Baptisia mollis was collected in several places by Buckley. I have been long satisfied that this was no Baptisia. Since my last letter to you I have been examining the matter somewhat, & having obtained the fruit of the real Baptisia mollis, which grows near me, I see that these plants are totally distinct!! The mature legumes of the former are three inches long, & flat: of the latter 3/4-1 in. & somewhat turgid. The former a glabrous plant, the latter quite pubescent &c. &c. I am not sure but the plant I sent you is Baptisia mollis, Nutt. & am rather inclined to think it is, as well as the plant of Tor. & Gr:. My plant came from near Table Mt., where Nutt: found his. Yet his description does not fully accord. Buckley's specimens are all in flower. I shall call this T. fraxinifolia, as it may be Nuttall's plant, & if not, the name will do as well as any other perhaps. I shall feel quite elated if I can establish two species of Thermopsis.

Buckley tells me that he was with Rugel awhile, & that he is a mean man; also, that he has fallen out with Tor: & Gray, & that he has sent & is sending his plants to Europe. The European Botanists have written him not to let Americans have his plants. I am determined therefore to work up the few plants I have into a paper for the Jan: No. of Silliman's Journal, so as to anticipate, as far as I can, any European Botanists. I wish you would help me out in this, if you have time. Buckley's plants had better be worked over also.

I lately went to my locality of Baptisia mollis, but not a vestige could I find. I shall therefore have to wait till Spring before I can get you the roots I promised. I can then send you at the same time Asarum arifolium & virg: Galax, & Asplenium montanum. Aster grandif: I will also get. I shall not go to Wilmington this Fall & cannot help you there. But as McRee is a great Florist & has a beautiful garden which he assiduously cultivates, I have no doubt that you can tempt him to aid you, if you have any fine Exotics to send him. He has a very large practice in his profession & has but little time to devote to other things, & it will very likely require a temptation to make him find time to help you. I have for the last five years begged him to get a few rare plants for me, but have got nothing. This year I offered a large tribe of living & dried plants if he would collect a few things, which he accepted, only adding that I must get him a parcel of Tulips from this place which is rather rich in that plant. I have not heard from him yet, & know not what he has done.

He is a generous man, & is perfectly willing to assist anybody; only his heavy practice & a good deal of our Southern vis inertiae affords an excuse for not drawing upon his moments of rest & occasional leisure. I have no doubt you can succeed with him by the mode I mentioned. He does more or less exchanging of this sort every year. Address Dr. James F. McRee, Wilmington. — Moody has sent me over 200 specimens of Carex Fraseriana, beautifully preserved. The season being much earlier than usual, the time I specified for collecting proved rather late, & consequently about half of the specimens are rather small, but they are all good. I will try to send you the half of them this Fall.

The price will be $5. I gave that for mine. If an earlier opportunity does not offer, I will take them to Newbern the last of Oct: where I am to make a hasty visit. I will put a few other things in the parcel, as Baptisia mollis &c.

Let me hear from you when convenient. Truly yours &c

M. A. Curtis.

Hillsborough, Nov: 18th 1842

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 3d inst: awaited me on the 16th, as I returned from Newbern. I now write to inform you that I took a small box of plants to Newbern for you, which was left there to be shipped, & which I hope is in N.Y. by this time. The parcel of Carex Fraseriana together with about twenty other species of plants composes the fasciculus. Among the latter I hope you will find something to interest you. Baptisia mollis (vera) is among them in fl. & fr. by which you will at once see that there is no mistake in my former representation. I have also sent a Scirpus Mitchellii, & Fothergilla Hunteriana (n. spp.?) upon which I desire your opinion.

On my journey to & from Newbern I passed many of my old acquaintances which I was very anxious to obtain. I saw several that you want, ~~but~~ Aster Elliottii, Baptisia villosa, Liatris resinosa, bellidifolia, Archemora ternata, &c. &c: but I was not prepared to get anything. I only picked up some fine legumes of Bapt: villosa, & some acorns of Quercus Catesboei, of which I can send you a few, if you want them.

I have sent an article to Silliman some weeks ago, begging him to insert it in his next No. It contains descriptions of Thermopsis Caroliniana; T. fraxinifolia; Baptisia mollis; Lindernia saxicola; Hypericum Buckleii; Helianthus Dowellianus; Carex Mitchelliana (C. hentolepis, Mss. in your hands.); C. glaucescens, Pandrogyna; Juncus cylindricus; Muhlenbergia filipes; & perhaps one or two more*. I have no copy, & do not now remember its entire contents. It was written hastily soon after Buckley left me, with the intention of securing an early chance for the January Number of the Journal, so as to get ahead of Rugel's correspondents. But for this, I should have trusted my Mss. to you, instead of publishing, & thereby avoided multiplying some synonymes perhaps. My Vaccinium ursinum cannot be V. glaucum, I think. Michaux says corol globose, which is far from my plant. And he would hardly have called the fruit edible, though it can be eaten. I am very confident about this plant. I am sorry you did not see the Helianth: Dowell: Buckley had it I suspect, in his large collection sent round by Charleston, though it was not in the parcel which he had with him. My friend, from whom it is named, sent me a leaf of the real thing last summer, & I requested him to collect a parcel for me. From him Buckley got one or more, I think. — If Buckley's Helleborus —, (I took the name from him,) proves to be Hydrastis Canad:, I shall be much surprised. I did not examine the plant, & I never saw a Helleborus, but it never occurred to me to be like Hydrastis.

* & Vaccinium ursinum.

You saw good specimens in flower of Thermopsis fraxinifolia in Buckley's collection, which, with the specimen in fruit which you have from me, will give you a full idea of the plant. The Bapt: mollis in the parcel now on the way, will settle the whole difficulty. In my article for Silliman I have assumed that Schweinitz specimen in Herb: Acad: is the true B. mollis, & in that way account for some points in Torr: & Gray's description, which do not exactly quadrate with Thermopsis fraxin:, but which accord well with Michaux' plant. I think that I have so characterized them, as to leave no further doubt. The T. fraxin: is wholly confined to the Mts; The B. mollis is wholly confined to the middle country; as far as any past observation extends. — I got Buckley, to furnish a friend with a couple of roots of Therm: Carol: which I shall look for this Fall. If I can get the thing in cultivation you shall have some of it.

You may pay $5.00 to Wiley & Putnam, subject to my order. — I have this day sent $10.00 to L. Moody, for the Carex. He has made quite a speculation for a man in his circumstances. A brother Clergyman direct from his house says that they remember your visit there with great pleasure.

Your Text Book was received, & has been partly read with high satisfaction. — Kunth Enum: III. I have got, but it is of little use to me. The American species I should say are not well worked up. Juncus is very unsatisfactory. — Whatever you may have to send me, deposite with Tanner & Hughes, N. York. You promised me a Carex Sullivantii last year!

I am glad if Hooker is to send me some plants, but I am afraid that it is too late for his benefit. If he had acknowledged my plants in season, it would have been in my power & will to have served him handsomely.
Why does not Tuckerman drop us a line?

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Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

I intended to avail myself of your opinion in regard to several plants comprised in my article in Silliman's Jour:, but it is now too late, & they must take their chance. If however, it is in your power to secure the admission of the paper, I wish you would use it. If in the list above given there are any species which you know to be founded on old & known plants you are at liberty to have them erased from the article.

With high regard—

M. A. Curtis

Ansd
April 27.

Hillsborough Feb. 7th 1843.

Dear Sir.

I am glad to hear that you received the Boy forwarded from Newbern, & that you are satisfied with Moody's hints. I suspect that he does not often make ten dollars so easy. — I have been looking more carefully at Tolhegille, and cannot find enough to hang Hunter on in the form I sent you. I was under an impression all the time that the spikes were axillary, which shows how little I had examined it. As to the Scirpus, I had not even opened a scale. I saw that it was different in the form of the scales from any S. maritimus I had ever seen, & that the heads were smaller. Are you positive about its being Torrey's var: cylindricus. He describes the spikes as "an inch long."

I received copies of my article in Sill: Journal, more than I wanted. Gillman informs me that you made some alteration in it. If so, I cannot tell wherein. — Your paper is very interesting. Is there not more of Golden's correspondence, equally valuable, & yet unpublished?

I am not satisfied about Baptisia mollis yet, except that it is certainly Michaux' plant. It is not a perfect Baptisia, at any rate. But I neglected to study it in all its stages last season, & therefore chose to say nothing

about it. The ovary, as you say, looks mightily like a Thermopsis; - & the mature legume is not half inflated enough, & is all but sessile. Unluckily I have none of the intermediate states between my flowering specimens & Hunter's dead ripe ones. In another season I intend that there shall be no doubt left upon it. I hope I shall be able to send you roots this Spring. — My taker in Lillimen was a hasty thing, got up while preparing for a journey, & merely for the purpose of reading Rugel's friends. - I have now a notion of preparing another for the July Number, which will contain a few corrections of the N. A. Flora, e.g. Neurophyllum ternatum. I wonder what Torrey & Gray would say to that!

What do you mean by "the disk obscure" in var: β of Heterotheca scabra, II. 251.? — For "Georgia", (II. 348.) read S. Carolina. Is not Coreopsis asperata, Cush. a form of C. cardaefolia? Are the "cauline leaves" of Thalictrum anemonoides "sessile"? Is not the fruit of Endlicher's Gelsemium derived from Echites difformis? Small leaved forms of the latter sometimes very much resemble Gelsemium.

I have lately received Sida Elliottii from Petersburg, Virg.ª, just like the Florida plant. - And I found Coreopsis discoidea among my Wilmington plants, confounded with Bidens frondosa. It is a vile simile of Sullivant's plant, of which I have specimens from Short & Tuckerman. I recollect being confoundedly bothered with it when preparing my Catalogue. — The plant from the pine woods of the low country, which you returned as Linum rigidum, is very different from the Western plant. I wish you had it again for a new examination.

I am glad you have another part of Flora in hand, & hope it will not be long there. Please have a copy sent me as soon as published, for which I will send the money this Spring.

Do you know what became of Leitner's collections which he made in Florida? He must have gathered much interesting materials, but I have never heard what became of them. In his first visit to Florida, the Charleston Savans paid his way & were to be remunerated from his collections. Whether they now have any of them, I know not. If it be of any importance, you can get information from Bachman, I presume.

I have puzzled Engelmann with Euscuta. I sent him specimens from Wilmington & from Boston, which he says are both precisely alike, but cannot be referred exactly to any of his species, though coming nearest to E. Gronovii. He has a new species from Texas, & has found another species of Lepidanche. — I am suspicious that he is too acute in his observations.

As soon as the weather opens the ground sufficiently, I intend to gather up a few things for you. I shall not be able to get much variety. Aesculus flava, Aster grandiflorus, Galax, Baptisia mollis, & Asplenium montanum, & Asarum arifolium, are all that I can think of within my reach, which you will be likely to covet. This is, on the whole, a very barren region in interesting plants.

Our Church Convention meets in Edenton (for the Albemarle) next May, & if I am able to attend I may be able to pick up some good specimens. I have never been in that section

of the state, and shall try to reach Lake Drummond. I do not look for anything new, but I may be able to add something to my list of N.C. plants, which has now reached 1800 species. I may probably make a flying trip westward during the Summer, but this is very doubtful. — Can you send me, or get any body else to send, for which I will return two for one, Eupatorium pubescens & resinosum, Aster Tradescanti, carneus, Greenei, laxus, amethystinus, ~~nemoralis~~, ~~ptarmicoides~~ & linifolius. Solidago, rubenula, stricta, humilis, linoides, Chrysopsis falcata.

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Prof. Asa Gray.
Cambridge
Mass.

Carex chadorhiza, Seweyana, alata, concolor, stricta, aquatilis, leucoglochin, pedunculata, atrata, Emmonsii, Novae Angliae, bracey, tetanica, sylvatica, livida, cristata, binervis, blepharophora, umbellata.

very truly your friend

M. A. Curtis

Hillsborough N.C. May 31. 1845

Ansd June 22

My Dear Sir,

Yours of the 27th ult: was rec'd day before yesterday on my return from the low country, having been absent between 5 & 6 weeks. I traversed the eastern section of the State from Edenton to Wilmington, but in all that time saw nothing new to me except Krantzia lineata near Wilmington. Here I also found Leptocaulis divaricatus. It is not a little singular, that I found new plants, only on ground that I had before explored for years. Indeed I have over 70 species to add to my Wilmington catalogue. I always find something new there. — Various things, as haste in journeying & press of duties, prevented my collecting much. Have you got Stellaria uniflora & Jaxodium distichum, β imbricarium? I have a few fresh specimens & can give you one of each. — I found Alchemilla arvensis at Plymouth on the Roanoke. Last year I found it at Oxford. Solidago vema is common along the line of Rail Road for many miles from Wilmington, & in full flower when I passed.

Baptisia tinctoria I found 6 miles from Raleigh when I went down. My locality here I have not had time to visit since my return, but shall look after it in a day or two. I am sorry to have disappointed you a second time about this & other plants, but I could not well help it. Next Fall

I will try again, which will be a better season. I thought of you in the low country, but had no time to collect the numerous interesting plants to be found there. MacRee intends to send you some in the Fall. I am sorry that I did not get your letter before I left here, as I had fine opportunity to have settled your queries about the cypress, as I passed through swamps on my journey where large trees were prostrate & sawed through for the manufacture of shingles. Some of those trees attain a circumference of 35—40 ft. — McRee can send you old trunks enough of Yucca.

The query which I put about Heterotheca scabra B, occurred to me only from reading the description. I never saw the plant. — The list of desiderata in my last letter was intended for any body who could supply my wants. If you are disposed to take it up yourself I have no objection in the world, & am willing to fulfil my promise of two to one.

Your contemplated southern tour is not well arranged by any means. September is the most sickly month at Wilmington & Fayetteville. And although you might escape disease, you would run much risk of incurring it at that season. The middle of Oct: is as early as would be prudent to visit those places. Then again this course would bring you so late in the Mts, that you would suffer very much there from the cold. In the mildest year I remember, (when there was no frost in Wilmington until sometime in Nov:) I was driven from the Mts as early as the 11th of Sept: by intense cold & the severest frosts. But if you will begin at Ashe, & follow the Mts to Cherokee &c, then go to Augusta, Charleston, & Wilmington, you will be able to make a very pleasant trip of it, & secure your plants in as good condition, if not better, particularly in the low country. For you will find your plants in the latter section in full flourish in Sept: & Oct. If you were going to W. on a visit or on ordinary busines, you might by prudent management diminish the risk of disease. But your purpose would throw you into the most dangerous course. You would be in the swamps & savannas breathing malaria continually, & exposed to the hot sun of midday, both of which are unsafe experiments. You might do all this, it is true, & escape disease; but you would run some risk. In a small way, I have done such things without harm; but such things have brought people to beds of sickness & to the grave. — I am much rejoiced that you have started some seeds of Thermopsis Caroln: & if you get them to flourish I shall be glad to get one some time or other. But what was you thinking of, when you expresed a hope of getting roots of T. fraxin: from me this Spring? — It is 4 years since I saw a root on Table Mt, & I hardly expect ever to see one again.

It is not very likely that I shall trouble Nemophyllum, for I have not yet begun to get in the humor of preparing a paper for Silliman. It is a kind of play for which I have not much fancy, & less ability. — I have rec'd the last No of Nich. Flora, & have a word to say upon Mulgedium. 1st, I cannot find sufficient points of distinction between M. acuminatum & Floridanum. They appear to differ much less than the forms of Lactuca elongata. 2d. The flowers of M. leucophæum (in my plant when fresh) are not "ochroleucous", but as yellow as Sonchus oleraceus. — Again. I have Centaurea Calcitrapa from

Petersburg, Va. & from this State (collected somewhere by Prof. Mitchell.) & the achenia have a pappus! I will send you a head sometime. Finally, I believe your Senecio Millefolium is S. Canadensis. The specific name of Canadensis is no more misapplied here than in the case of Berberis Canadensis.

Very respectfully
M. A. Curtis

HILLSBORO JUN 4 N.C.

Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Hillsborough, N.C. June 30th 1843

My Dear Sir,

As you may have some more questions to propound before commencing your grand tour, I may as well reply to your last at once. But I must first tell you about Baptisia mollis, Mich: which proves to be no Baptisia, as I have all along suspected. The legumes are very unequal, ~~but~~ & are of all lengths from 3/4 in. to 2 1/2 in. in length, the longer ones falcate, stipitate, compressed, 10–12 seeded, acuminate with the incurved style; stam: & pet: subpersistent. It is a very different thing from Thermopsis caroliniana: Suppose I call it T. Michauxii? Will you let it stand so? – It seems to me that the distinctive characters of Baptisia & Thermopsis are very uncertain except those derived from the legume.

I think you have made a wise change in your route, & I hope you will have the company of your friend Sullivant. You will take the line of Mts. in just the right season, as also the low country. I should advise you to go from Charleston to Wilmington. You can leave the former every evening by steamboat & reach Wilmington early next morning. I suggest this, because McRee is not much to be depended on, for reasons given in a former letter. But if you can get hold of him on the spot, he will accompany

you to the various localities around, as far as he knows them, with great pleasure. Enough will still remain for him to do in getting you the Spring plants. His asistance will facilitate your collection so much that you will not be hindered long there, & then you can go from there home via N.Y. by sea or land. – I may as well suggest, that, while at Charleston, if you want Sarracenia variolaris, you can get it along the line of Rail Road 8–12 miles from the city. Furthermore, you need not trouble yourself to get Galax or Asplenium montanum in the Mts., as I will furnish them from here.

Again. In getting your plants to the seaboard, if you will make Asheville your depot, they can be got thence to Charleston at most any time. Mr. Patton who keeps the Hotel there can tell you all about it. If you prefer it, you could employ a man to haul for you to Charleston, as old Michaux did. It will be an expensive trip to you, I judge. And I foretel a very laborious work for you.

I cannot tell you the precise spot where I collected Therm: fraxin:, but it was on the Ridge which you ascend in going from Park's to Tab: Mt. – But you will have still another chance for that plant farther South, bearing in mind that it does not seem to inhabit west of the Blue Ridge. Buckley found it abundant in the Mts. along the head of Broad River, & also on Tab: Mt., S.C. I should advise you to go from Asheville to Flat Rock, & from thence cros the Mts. to Haywood. Dr. Hardy of Asheville will give you the details. At Franklin, do not fail to call on friend McDowell, who will aid you as far as he possibly can. – As to "other plants", there will be no need of specifying localities excepting for Thudsonia montana. I did not find this till my third visit to Tab. Mt. & I fear you will be too late to find the vestiges. You should look among the shrubbery on the glacis of the Mt. near the summit. Pull away among the Leiophylla, & search close as for a moss. Very likely you may find it on Grandfather. In the crevices of rocks you will find Arenaria glabra, particularly in the great fissure called "the Stairs".

I do not know how to get Diamorpha for you, as I have no acquaintances at Salisbury who could get it.

If you are disposed to go out of your way to get Boltonia asteroides, go to Elisha Miller's, Caldwell Co., (lately Burke) on the road between Wilkesborough & Mor: (he lives [redacted] miles north of the latter), & search in Upton (14 m.) low grounds back of his house. From his house, you could visit (4 miles) Turkey Mt. & get Silene n. sp.? ("S. agresti: aff:" Torr.) the only locality I know.

July 1st. I have a letter from McDowell this morning. He has found more Therm: barbin: down the Tennessee, & has some plants growing for me, but I do not know how I shall ever get them. – I shall be glad to hear from Oakes, & get some desiderata from him. I will do what I can for him in return. – You can have Solidago verna for the asking, I reckon. In accompanying one of McKee to his plantations last month (where he is obliged to go now & then) we found acres of it in full bloom. It being thus in his way, he can get it for you. The only danger is his putting it off. I will try to push him up. The surest way to put energy into him is the offer of fine flowers for his garden.

I will send you Stellaria uniflora, & Tapodium imbricar; with a few other things this Fall. — If you send for DC. Prod: Vol: VIII. have one imported for me, if you please. — I hope you will take sharp notice of the plants as you pass through our Mts, & be able to add something to my list & my stock. If you do not find something new, it will be the first failure. — Respectfully — McBuntis.

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Prof: Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass:

Rec'd
you com

Hillsborough (N.C.) Nov: 7. 1843

My Dear Sir,

Your interesting letter from Richmond had well nigh been the first mesenger to announce your journey. It was but a few days before, that I heard from My Brother Prout of your having been at Grandfather. I was much disappointed in not having another letter from you before commencing your journey, or while on your route, specifying certain plants of which you wished to ascertain precise localities. However, it does not appear that you have missed many. The few which you mention, whose localities I am acquainted with, do not grow along the line you traversed. Parnassia asarifolia I could have mentioned one locality easily found, but it was on the borders of Cherokee. The locality on Black Mt. pen & ink cannot describe. I met with it in several other places, but not easily designated. Asplenium pinnatifidum I never found, but Buckley got it in Hickory nut Gap. Thermopsis Caroliniana you may get from McDowell, but he is so far out of the world, that it will be difficult for him to get the plants to the seaboard. Did you not raise some of this the past season? You wrote in the Spring that you had sprouted a few seeds. — I am very glad that you got some roots of F. fraxinifolia, & hope you will receive & grow them in the Garden. Then, after

getting my T. Michauxii. (you have not yet told me whether you would allow this name) you will be able to institute a thorough comparison of the two, which I have not been able to do. Still, I have no doubt of their being totally distinct. — Did you collect roots of Hypericum Buckleyi? I have never had your judgment on this plant yet. And the Shortia? Pray, did you find it?

I beg you will give me as full list as you can of such West-ern plants as you noticed "coming into the State on the French Broad." Did you see Cladrastis or Gillenia stipulacea or Gymnocladus within the limits of N. C.? — The latter I found near Lincolnton in some quantities, but I suppose must have been introduced there. I am very sorry you did not go to Lincoln & get that little shrub, which I have never been able to make out, & which you & Torrey cannot determine. It annoys me more than anything in our whole Flora. — When at Collectsville you were only 8 miles from the locality of Boltonia asteroides! I hope to visit your Garden the latter part of next Summer to see what you have accomplished. — I am glad you went to Wilmington, & am only sorry I was not there to assist you, though in the short visit you made, you could not get everything. I hope you got Archemora ternata, Nutt. & Carphephorus bellidifolius.

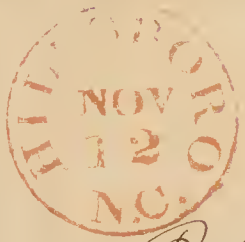
I shall now soon have a box of roots prepared to send you, but I am at a loss how to pack them well, as I cannot procure Sphagnum here, or anything that will be a fair substitute. But I shall do as well as I can. Hunter writes that he has got a parcel of roots of Bapt: mollis for you. I have just received a few more specimens of it from him, & I am sure his plant is identical with mine. He gets his within 30 or 40 miles of the Mecklenberg line, so that I think all doubt is now removed from old Michaux' plant. But it is an indubitable Thermopsis.... While writing, a little parcel of plants from Hunter has been brought in, which I have looked over. Among them I see a "Carex Hunteri, Gray". I shall examine it bye & bye, but I thought it looked close akin to C. triceps, Ell. though the fruit was rather more inflated.. Well, I may say with Dr. Boott (in Lit.), "I am confident many discoveries in Carex await the researches of the American Botanist." — If you have a decent specimen of Buckley's C. miser to spare, do let me have it. He sent me a single blasted stem that might as well be referred to one species as another. He has not fairly reciprocated with me in quantity or quality. — — — I have received from Petersburg, Virg.ª, Hibiscus militaris, & Aira praecox. Of the latter there was but a single [blot] in the root of an Arenaria. There was in the same parcel a fine suite of Sida Elliottii, & mature specimens of Centaurea Calcitrapa. In these I find no pappus; but in young specimens rec.ᵈ last year, & in a specimen from Prof: Mitchell of the University, there is pappus(!), & plenty of it.

Dr. Boott has written me for Carex Mitchelliana &c, but I have not a duplicate left. Cannot Torrey loan him his Specimens?

If you have any hand in the distribution of Buckley's article in Sill: Journal, please send me one. I have rec.ᵈ the extract published in July; but I want the other which I suppose appeared in the Oct: Number. I have never heard from him since he left for Florida; but I learn that he got sick, & came back with but few acquisitions.

I shall be glad to hear from you soon —

Very truly your friend — W. A. Curtis



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Prof: A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Hillsborough, N. C. Jan: 30th 11/44

Dear Sir.

Somewhere about the middle of Decem: ber I spent two days in collecting a parcel of roots for you, such as lay in my reach & which I supposed would be serviceable. There are but few, for this is a barren region, & I cannot now think of any which I omitted except Silphium compositum. I will supplement that next year, if you wish. The box is large & lumbering, but I could not well help that by reason of the Aesculus flava, of which I put in some half dozen roots. Besides these, there are five or six roots of Thermopsis mollis, a quantity (say a dozen each) of Galax rotundifolia, Asarum virginicum & arifolium, about 15 roots of Aster grandiflorus, four or five of Asplenium montanum, & as many of a Vaccinium which I intended for that glaucous one of which I sent you a specimen in fruit. I got them from the same locality, but as two or three other species are found there, I could not with certainty determine it in its winter state. I hope it is the right one, for I should like to have it satisfactorily determined. I could not make up an opinion upon it,

The specimen which I sent was, I believe, characteristic; I collected several, & I saw no difference in them. I shall observe it again this year, & in flower.

I put the Asplenium in a roll of moss on the top, & in about the centre of the box. I fear you will have some difficulty in finding it, & am more concerned lest it die. The other things are all helter-skelter, but I think you will have no trouble in recognizing them. A good portion of the moss on the top of the box is a fine species of Jungermannia, which however I did not look out, & I cannot now recal the name. I presume you can easily revivify it, if you wish it.

I regret very much that they have been so long on hand, but on visiting the Store where I had deposited them for carriage by the first waggon, I learned that they had only left this day. I had not expected a delay of more than three weeks. Still I hope they may reach you in health. I have directed them to Wiley & Putnam N. York, as probably the safest & most expeditious course. You can take action accordingly. I shall be happy to serve you again by collecting roots, if there are any you want within my reach at any time. I have a few dried specimens which I wish to send you next Spring.

I was greatly surprised to hear of the discovery of Paronychia argyrocoma on the White Mts. Chapman also writes that he found it there last summer. - I shall be greatly pleased if I can make out an exchange with Oakes, as I know he has some things which I shall be glad to get. I will make as liberal a return for them as I can. If you will do me the favor to suggest to him to furnish me a list of Desiderata (as full as may be) I can then determine how far I may be able to serve him. I am ready at a moment's warning. I doubt not that I can furnish him <u>some</u> species which he will appreciate highly. — Pray what is this new Genus of Tuckerman's which he has honored Oakes with? What Order does it belong to, & where is its locale? —— I lately received some sheets from Sill: Journ: for which <u>you</u> (?) will please accept my thanks. I am always glad to receive these favors.

What is the cost of Kunze's Supplement to Schkuhr? And has he republished the original work of Schkuhr? Schkuhr's Book cannot be had, I suppose. I run one up to $10. at an auction in Boston, but could not afford to go higher, & so I lost it, the only copy I ever saw except Dewey's.

When does Boott mean to publish on the Carices?

Does Dewey contemplate an American Monograph?

He did ten or twelve years ago. By the way, do you know anything of my Carex Mitchelliana? What do you think of it? - I have some idea, if I can find time next Spring, of taking a journey after that plant. I never had but three specimens. Torrey had a specimen long before he published his Cyperaceae, & had pronounced it new, calling it C. Curtisii. I want C. alata very much. The only spec: I ever saw was in Herb: Torr: from Croom. —— I will try to get my friend Tuomey of Petersburg to send you some roots of Sida Elliottii. I hope the boxes of your Summer's collection have begun to pour in upon you, & that you receive them in good order. I am glad the work consequent thereon is not mine!

I found last Summer that a miserable depredator had got into my

Herbarium in the shape of a black worm 3/4 in. long, jointed, hard, & wiry. Whew, what havoc he made! He must have been introduced in some parcels from abroad, & I suspect from Louisiana. Do you know the rascal, & how to keep clear of him? I have endeavored to destroy them in detail, but fear that I have not cleared them all out.

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

HILLSBORO N.C.
FEB 2

Let me know when the hop reaches you, & how the plants have fared.

Truly yours
M. A. Curtis

Hillsborough, N.C. July 10/44

Dear Sir,

I wrote you last in January, and if my letters were of any special value to you, you would have some reason to complain of me. But as I regard the favor of the correspondence as lying in the other direction, I have thought best not to tax you for the last six months.

I am glad to learn from yours of March 29th that my box of plants promised well; yet I am afraid their long journey & exposure to cold may have injured part of them. I expect to see some of them before winter. I hope the vaccinium is alive, & that you have been able to satisfy yourself about it, for, in consequence of indifferent health during the Spring, I did not examine it in flower. I have lately collected a parcel of it with ripe fruit, but have made no new examination of it.

Besides this visit to vaccinium, I have made only one other this year, which was to Cuscuta pentagona, & of which I collected 70 or 80 specimens, 30 or 40 being for Engelman. This seems to be a fine species, flowering here in June. Dr. E. writes that you & Sullivant found C. compacta & C. (n. sp. & forget the name) in our Mts. Pray leave a

specimen of each for me. I find b. pentag: on Aster, Trifolium, Ambrosia, Lepidium, Bignonia, Plantago, Passiflora, Erigeron, Polygonum, & Sonchus.

The reason that I never collected much of Pleea is, that I never was in Wilmington at the right season, & I never saw but one specimen in good flower. At the usual time of returning to W. the plants are well dried up. In that state I have distributed a few.

Should Baker be at home in September I intend to visit him & overhaul his collections, for which I will make him any return he may demand. I hope to get something out of you also. I shall not be able to take on anything except a few things for you. But after my return, I shall be at leisure to put up parcels in payment of favors.

I had set apart my Spring vacation of a week to recruit my strength by a short journey, & intended to make it on the line where I found Carex Mitchelliana nine years ago. But on calling for the horse & vehicle which I had engaged, I found to my vexation that my friend had mistaken the week, & had loaned them to another! So I must wait another year.

If there is anything in my Herb: which you would like to see, I will take it on with me if you will let me know. I shall not leave here till the 6th of Aug:, & by writing immediately your letter will reach me before I set sail for the north. I shall not reach Boston till the last of August,

& shall spend most of Sept: there. It is by no means unlikely that I shall seek an entree into your dominions at Cambridge.

"Friend Prout" has gone on a visit to his home in or near Catskill, N.Y. He will return in August. He spent a day with me in May, & was pretty well. I am sorry to learn that John Carey has removed to Buffalo. I should have been glad to see him in N. York, where I mean to spend a few days.

I received your essay on the "Longevity of trees", which was particularly interesting from the fact that I have been for some time wanting the facts in the case, & had no books to refer to. Decandolle's conclusions I was never contented with, but his data were unknown to me. I am not disposed to carry the age of trees beyond the era of the flood, though I know not why Cypresses may not have endured a few months submersion without destruction. Taking the Septuagint chronology, which I deem the true one, we have 5000 yrs: between the deluge & the present time, & I reckon that trees will hardly be found older than that. The question occurs, why are not more trees found in undisturbed forests of this extreme longevity, since they die not of old age. Are ~~the~~ not the few cases of such large trees presumptive evidence that they are not single stocks? These enormous trunks seem to be the exceptions in the present condition of the vegetable kingdom; & should we not therefore refer them to certain casualties which

would naturally form ~~the~~ exceptions, when these casualties readily explain the phenomenon. But if it be a law ~~of~~ in the vegetable kingdom, that Exogens are susceptible of perpetual increase of diameter from the perpetual & undiminished exertion of vital energy;- how is it that the exhibitions of this law are so rare? In other words, how is it that the law becomes the exception, & anomalies the rule?

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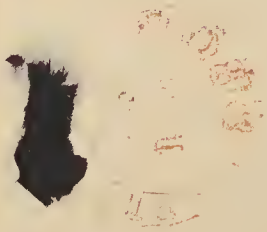
Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.



I am looking forward with much pleasure to the scenes of a northern journey. Yours is among the prominent figures in the foreground. I hope it may not flit away from the realization.

yours truly

M. A. Curtis

Answd.
June 11.

Hillsborough, N.C. Jan: 6th 1845

My Dear Sir,

Business first, — & I therefore say that Col: Cadwallader Jones of this borough desires a Catalogue of your University, as he thinks of sending a son to Cambridge either as a resident Graduate or as a Law Student. Your interest for old Cambridge will doubtless urge you to favor my excellent friend with what he desires. The Catalogue which you sent me since my return home, I have long since sent to a Bro: Clergyman in Raleigh who contemplates sending a son to C. to pass his senior year. You may send me another, if you please, as I may have more calls, & I should like to be prepared to serve your noble Institution.

Your "Chemistry of Vegetation" came to hand to day, for which I am obliged to you, & I have read it with much pleasure. The rapidity with which you turn out so much reading matter, as well unprinted as printed, is quite a mystery to my duller & slow moving brain. Poor Draper. How could you serve him so? Nobody will want to read a book that he knows beforehand contains such intolerable bombast as the two last extracts in your article. Well, use up the quacks; they have reigned long enough in this country. I am engaged on some smaller game, which needs to be brought down, albeit I have but bird shot in my pouch.

I had intended acting on your advice about a review of Nott's "Two Lectures" &c, & the thing had accordingly gone out of mind. But in the October No. of the Southern Quarterly my eye fell upon the following among the Critical Notices.

"Two Lectures &c. ---- by Josiah C. Nott." "These able Lectures deserve an extended notice or review, which they shall receive from us when we have more space & leisure to devote to the purpose than at present. We can only now return our thanks to the learned author for a very valuable disquisition on a subject of much curiosity & interest."

Here then the thing was getting into notice & receiving compliments, & was promised a review likely to be flattering to the author, & I could not stand it. I therefore wrote instanter to the Editor, offering to take the work off his hands, & at the same time giving my opinion of the Lectures, & stating what would be the character of my review. He took me up, & I have written over my material. I ascertained that the Editor was an acquaintance of Dr. Nott, & I am desired to avoid "the bitterness of controversy." Now it is not in the nature of things, that such a publication should be intelligently reviewed without great severity, & I have administered a stern rebuke to the author, though in more genteel terms than in the correspondence you read. My article may not find admission therefore into the Southern Review. But as I am unwilling that my labor shall now prove an abortion, if my paper must go a-begging, it must beg at the North. Where had I better send it, if it fails in Charleston? I had thought of the Biblical Repository. Would the N. Amer: Review take such a thing? Is it suitable for Silliman? I should like your opinion on the subject. I shall send it soon to be in readiness for the April Number.

Mr. Editor says furthermore that I must look for a reply from Dr. Nott, that he has lately imported a parcel of Books on the subject & means to sustain his position. Let him!

If your "decades" are within reach of my slender means, I shall become a subscriber. I hope you will succeed to your mind in the undertaking. If you get the right side of those Boston fellows they will help you out in it as far as money will go. But I want the next No. of the Flora hugely. Aside from my impatience to see its contents, I am anxious to have the 2d Vol: complete for binding, the first No. having been so much thumbed that it is in sad plight. Go ahead with it. I believe I seldom let you off with a letter, without giving you a twang from that string.

Has Tuckerman left a little parcel of plants with you which I had loaned to Prof: Dewey? Those, with the few I had in the parcel for you to be returned (+), you can make into a strong parcel, & sometime when a good opportunity offers send to Turner & Hayden, 10 John St. N. York. You need not put yourself out of the way or be in any hurry about it. Have you got a loose sheet of Dewey's late paper in Silliman? If you have, pray send me one. Dewey gets my plants, but does not let me know what he does with them. I sent him a Carex stylosa from Wilmington or Raleigh. I had always regarded that plant as only a form of the Protean anceps. What do you decide upon it? - With what I got from you & Greene & Durand, I came home

rich in new acquisitions. Durand has a choice collection. I found my Solidago verna there from Rafinesque's plants. That is the specimen you saw, I suppose, which you guessed to have come from Florida. There are a few odd things of Raf: of American origin which I had never met with, & there are others which I do not believe were collected in this country, unless it were from a garden. ——— I have some hope of recovering Walter's white Nelumbium. I have for several years heard of a plant on Lake Waccamaw (about 30 miles from Wilmington) the description of which corresponded well enough with a Nelumbium, but the flowers were said to be white, & yet of very large size. I had thought it might perhaps be a Nymphea. But this winter my friend Judge Bailey brought me the receptacle & nuts from the Lake, & it may be that we shall there find the long lost pentapetala. The people told him the flowers were white.

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Prof: A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass

Dr. Porcher to
Marion

I shall probably go to Wilmington in May, & will then try to visit the Lake, though it will be too early to collect. But I can procure somebody to collect specimens & send to Mobile, & then we can settle the question. Here is something to hope for now. How could Walter have made a mistake in the matter?

Remember me kindly to Greene. I will send him a parcel of plants the coming season, if he will make out a list of desiderata.

Very respectfully,
M. A. Curtis

Answd
July 1.

Hillsborough, N.C. June 11th 45

Dear Sir,

A late flying tour to Fayetteville to attend our Ecclesiastical Convention brought back my botanical ardour, & disposes me to trouble you with these lines, which you might otherwise have escaped for some time to come. — In travelling with a sprightly horse & between 40 & 50 miles a day, a person cannot always have his eye upon the woods, rarely more than a yard or two from the road, nor can he stop long to gather specimens. Nevertheless I saw & collected some good things, bringing home over 200 specimens gathered mostly in the sandy pine barrens of Cumberland & Moore Counties. It is not till we get near half way to Fayette that we strike the interesting botanical ground of the sand hills. For some twenty five miles south of this we cross a region of Granite, intersected here & there by transition Slate; after which we come upon red Sandstone, which is found more or less to Fayetteville, though near the latter place this stone seems to belong to another period. On Deep River, about 18 miles west of Haywood I examined a coal bed, which I should think might be extensive, though it has never been worked. It seems to be Anthracite, but has some bitumen in it, & gives a small blue flame. The article is only used by one or two blacksmiths in the vicinity.

But let us come to more favorite subjects. I crossed the Haw & Deep Rivers at Haywood, just above their junction where they form the Cape Fear, & descended the west side of that river, expecting

to find a rather different Flora from what I had elsewhere seen in the State. Some ten miles beyond Haywood I began to get among the long leaved Pines (P. palustris) Scrub Oaks (Q. catesbaei, cinerea &c.) when the botanical spirit began to revive, as it always does when I get among those old friends & their associates. The general Flora from thence to Fayette is the same with that near the sea coast. I saw Solidago verna, Baptisia villosa, Psoralea canescens, Croton capitatus, Lupinus villosus & diffusus (totally distinct plants, by the way,) Stillingia sylvatica, Asclepias amplexicaulis, Aristida stricta, Silphium compositum, Hex, Lysimachia fluviatilis, Astragalus glaber, Euphorbia ipecac:, (E. gracilis, Ell.) Erigeron vernum, Nuphar sagittaefolia, Rhynchospora rariflora & Elliottii, Stipulicida, Verbena carolin:, Coreopsis dichot:, Leptospoda brachyp:, Pogonia ophi:, Leptocaulis divaric:, Vigna brevifolia, &c. &c. &c. &c.

But besides these I found what I had not elsewhere seen in this State,- Lysimachia Herbemonti, Galactia sessiliflora, Gillenia stipulacea, Psoralea Lupinellus, Sparganophorus verticillatus (very small, 3-6 inches) & Asclepias aceratoides (n. sp)! The first, second, & fourth of these had been collected along there by Prof: Mitchell many years before. Some of these things were not in flower, & of others I could sometimes get only such as were close by the road on account of my horse being unwilling to stand. However I can sink you a specimen of any above mentioned.

I must offer a few observations upon some of these plants. — Rhynchospora rariflora. My specimens are not quite mature, but they have a nut equalling or shorter than the tubercle; bristles as long as the nut & half the tubercle!

Euphorbia ipecac: Extremely variable & includes E. gracilis, Ell. Leaves sometimes almost wanting, & varying from narrow linear to broad obovate; erect or spreading.

Rhynchosia simplicifolia must be distinct from the erecta. The former was in flower & fruit, while the latter erect & stiff was not even in bud!

Rhynchosp: Grayii, I always find with six stamens!

Asclepias aceratoides, - 4-12 in: high, pubescent, lower half leafless. Leaves opposite, lanceolate or elliptic, petiolate, spreading, acute at each end, 1½-2½ in: long, ½-¾ in: wide, pale beneath; Umbels lateral, (2 to 5,) short peduncled, many flowered; Flowers large, yellowish green; Petals large, broad oval, reflexed; Lepanthium obliquely truncate backward; horn barely exsert. This might readily be passed over for an Acerates, but is a true Asclepias, & I think, undescribed. Unluckily I gathered but 7 specimens.

On Lower Little River, 12 miles from Fayette, I found vestiges of Cuscuta compacta. During the past winter I found this abundant on streams about Hillsborough, & is the most common species. — Dionaea grows within 3 miles of Fayette. — Last Winter I received the capsule of Nelumbium from Waccamaw Lake, said to be the fruit of a large white flower. I have engaged a friend to procure some flowers for me this Summer, which I hope I shall receive.

I could spin out this sort of talk somewhat farther, but I am doubtful how far you may value it, & shall cease. I may give you another of the same kind next Fall, as I contemplate a journey to Ashe & Yancey next August. Can you join me? My health continues indifferent, & if I do not mend, I must endeavor to recruit by a journey, before the Summer closes.

A few days ago I sent you my review of Nott. Read it through, not for the information, but for the joke's sake. You may skip the remarks on Wiseman; for that is all twaddle to you.

I see by Wiley & Putnam's Bulletin that your new edition of the Bot: Text Book is out. I suppose now we may expect another number of the Flora, eh?

I put up a small parcel of plants for Greene last Winter, but I lost my expected opportunity of sending it. He does not give me a list of desiderata, & I must therefore select for him at random. I will forward a package in the Fall with some additions to its present bulk. Give him my kind regards.

I thought I had got through my botanical chat, but I believe I must add a little more. The Phlox (n. sp.?) which you collected in Ashe Co. 7/11 grows here, & I doubt if you will be able to separate it from P. Carolina. The pubescence is variable. Your own specimen is pubescent at the summit.

I found this Spring a beautiful monstrous state of Castanea pumila, the aments being very numerously branched into panicles! ± Rhynchosia monophylla runs into your var: intermedia in our sand barrens, the lower pair of leaves being simple; but the latter becomes more common as you begin to get out of the tertiary region. They are both found in the pine barrens,

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

single.

as well as the erecta. The erecta is found perfectly distinct & uniform from the seacoast to the mountains. The volubilis may be a later state of monophylla. I have rarely met with it, & only around Wilmington. — I have done.

Wishing you health, peace, & prosperity, I remain

truly your friend

M. A. Curtis

Recd July 22nd

Hillsborough, N. C. July 7th/45

Dear Sir,

The P. Master says he shall charge but 10 cts for my letter & enclosure, & I conclude I can afford to pay that much for the pleasure of hearing your opinion of this Asclepias, which is certainly new to me. Pray let me hear your decision soon.

Yours of the 27th ult: came to hand to day. — I will send you such plants as I collected on my Fayetteville journey next Fall in company with the parcel for Greene. Borrera canescens was not in flower, & I did not collect any; but I believe I have a specimen collected in the same region by Prof: Mitchell. If so, you shall have it. Nuphar sagitt: I did not collect, though I had fine opportunity. But I intended to take plenty of it on my return, when unfortunately I passed no convenient locality. P. Lupinellus & Galactia sepiis: were not in flower, but I collected specimens. Two or three of the latter had a flower or two open.

Since my last, I have had a visit from Tuomey of Petersburg, Virg.a. He was on his return home from his Winter & Spring "survey" of S. Carolina. His proper labor is Geology, but he collects a very few plants. He has visited Tab: Rock, S.C., & will probably be there again, & perhaps can get you that Senecio. I will ask him to do so. He brought a few specimens along in a Port: Folio; among which were Philadelphus grandif: from the banks of the Santee. But I was more delighted with a little thing which I had never before seen, & which proves to be the Soliva nasturtiif: D.C. He says it is abundant in places near the sea coast. He had but little of it.

Nott has come down upon me full of wrath & bitterness in the July No. of S.L. Review. I have written a short defence, but am in great doubt whether to send it. He misunderstands, evades, & quibbles. Do you think he does not escape my demand to define the human species, by demanding an unobjectionable definition of the word species, & a discrimination of all the Dogs, Bears & Wolves in the world ?!!! He confines his "Reply" entirely to the first part of my Review.

It is yet uncertain if I get to the mountains. My original plan has been thwarted. If I succeed I intend taking the month of August, & to go by private conveyance. That will give me only ten or twelve days; during which I can do no more than visit Grandfather & perhaps the Roan. —[Pount paped on thither a few days since with a wife from N. York !]— If you have any requests to make beyond those in your late letter, you had better make them at once, for a letter will hardly reach me wandering in Ashe & Yancey. I will do anything I can for you, but I fear it will be little or nothing. Three young friends intend accompanying me, & we shall be rather crowded. But there will be no harm in telling what you want. Possibly I can get the things brought down here by other means. Our Bishop will be coming down about that time, & perhaps can bring something. Others will come down in the Spring.

I have lately been trying my Phlox genus by DeCandolle (I have Dec.ne Vol: IX since I last wrote) but soon got into great confusion & gave it up. That P. glaberrima, Linn. is what I have always called P. Carolina. It varies in pubescence & leaves.

Should the Waccamaw Nelumbium be white, you can easily get roots through McKee, who is only about 20 miles from the lake.

Do save me a specimen of Heuchera hispida, if your Garden affords a spare one. Send by mail

I thought you would have plenty of Thermopsis Carol: this year. Do not the seeds germinate well? In the wild state I have never seen branches formed, only incipient ones in some of the axils. In that respect, it differs from the other species I know. T. mollis has the toughest fibre of any plant I know of.

Truly yours &c

M. A. Curtis

P.S. The enclosed specimen is the smallest I have.

10

Prof: A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Hillsborough N.C. Aug: 2/45

Answ
Sept. 17

Dear Sir,

I am so much in the habit of an early reply to letters ~~&~~ received, that I am often uncomfortable until the work is done. This is a reason for now writing, especially as I am anxious to return thanks for your very welcome specimen of Heuchera hisp. - the first I ever saw. It came safe, i.e. was not essentially injured. The stem was broken into three fragments, & the radical leaves were detached from the stem: But I suppose that they were in that state when you put them in the letter. —— Have you ever discovered anything more about H. Curtisii. I have no specimen of that thing, & must have sent my only specimen to Torrey.

My Asc: acerifolius cannot, I think, be Elliott's A. obovatus. My plant has very variable leaves, some of the larger specimens having obovate & roundish leaves, the smaller like that I sent you with acute leaves. But the pubescence, petioles, flowers, & size, all distinguish it from Elliott's & Decaisne's descriptions. I have a plant from Red River (La.) which I suppose is Elliott's, & agrees minutely with his description, but is totally

distinct from mine, though it is a true Asclepias, & falls into Decaisne's Otaria, to which, if I remember right, mine does not properly belong. I must try to get more next year. I will send you a larger specimen this autumn.

It is not yet decided whether I go to the Alts. If I do go, I must start on the 11th. I need an excursion very much, but have hardly energy enough to start alone. If I get a companion, I shall probably make a move.

I have just finished a Rejoinder to Nott's saucy "Reply". It is no very pleasant business, but he does not seem to have got enough yet.

I enclose in this a stalk of Poa, which I wish you would decide upon. It grows here on the shaded banks of the River, & has pestered me somewhat, & I should like your opinion of it.

Truly yours

M. A. Curtis

You told me once when Kalmia
cuneata grew. Tell me again

10

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Ansd
Sept. 17

Hillsborough, N.C. Sept: 11th /45

Dear Sir,

I returned on the 6th inst: from Ashe & Yancey whither I started on the 12th ult:. While there & since my return I was unable to write. Indeed I could have said little while in the mountains. I did not even write to my wife. — I went from here in a two horse carryall, accompanied by an educated gentleman from Halifax & a young pupil of mine, the latter on horseback. Our route was through Greensborough, Salem, Wilkesborough, crossing the Blue Ridge at Deep Gap, some 20 miles south of Jefferson. On the other side we struck the New River near the Three Tak settlement, passed Counsel's Store, & reached Ben Counsel's on the 16th. The next morning we rode over 4 miles to Valle Crucis, a school & farm established by our Bishop for the enlightenment of the mountaineers. This establishment is on a farm lying on a small creek, up which you went in going to Hanging Rock, which overlooks the little valley. In getting out of the carriage at Wilkesborough my foot slipped from the wheel, & I fell with my knee upon the tire, severely bruising & laming me, so that I suffered much for the next day or two. I must have caught cold in it, or else an attack of

rheumatism supervened, so that I could not get about until the 16th. For two days I could not leave my bed, & had to be lifted in & out. As I could walk without much pain on the 16th I concluded I would kill or cure by a visit to hanging rock, as I could ride within a mile of the summit, my companions carrying my portfolio. The exercise & excitement limbered me, & I clambered up the rock among the foremost. A chilly rain came on & plants were wet, yet I collected Solidago glomerata, spithamaea, buttii, Archangelica buttii, Buscata oxycarpa, &c. &c. The 17th I preached — 18th too unwell to journey — 19th concluded to attempt visiting the Roan. We crossed the Elk at Holzclaws (?) came out at Cranberry & then took the left end of the main road to Houston's: You took the right end & went to Hampton's, a longer & less desirable route. Houston lives right under the Yellow on Toe River, about 2½ miles from the bald ground. On the 20th our old host led us over the Yellow to the Roan, crossing the Yellow Mt. road about 2½ miles above Hampton's, passed your old camping ground on the Roan, which Houston pointed out, & reached the Bluff sometime after midday. A heavy shower was evidently brewing & my amateur companions were anxious to reach the main summits before the prospect was obscured, so that we hastened on, intending to collect specimens as we came back. While at the Bluff I collected a few species, but in less than half an hour the whole world was shut up in clouds, & we were soaking in a drenching rain which continued for the rest of the day. Our guide was a rheumatic old fellow like myself, afraid to camp out for the night & besides had brought no provisions, my young companion had been in ill humor from 10 o'clock for want of victuals, & we had nothing to do for it but mount horse again & find our way to the nearest house. It was late, & the rain searching & constant. I had little disposition, & the rest would give no time for stopping to get plants. My Portfolio soon soaked through & came all to pieces, so that I had to carry it in my hands with several additional pounds weight of water, instead of slinging it across my shoulders. To cap the climax, the old man lost the track & we wandered through the dark woods till about 9 o'clock P.M. before reaching a hut. Here we demolished a huge dish of potatoes & a plate of chicken to the great wonder of the host & family, & then turned in in wet clothes. Bed bugs were no annoyance to me that night, for I reeled off sleep at a rate that left no time for other considerations. My elder companion & our guide found more time for entomology, & gave me full details of their night's study. We had intended spending two days on the Roan & Yellow, but the weather continued threatening, my guide was unwilling to return, & my young companion well worn out, so we wended our way back to Houston's, & the next day to Valle Crucis. The following morning we started homeward, ascending the Watauga, descending the Blue Ridge upon John's River to Collett's, Lenoir, Lincolnton, Salisbury, Greensborough, & home. I spent a day at Lincolnton, hoping to rediscover Aster gracilentus, & that Viburnum looking shrub that is still a mystery.

I could find neither, although the locality of the latter I well remember. I went all over it. A fire had been over the ground the past season. — You will perceive by this hasty sketch that my excursion was rather unfortunate. The rains & sickness prevented my accomplishing all that was intended. The Grandfather, where I expected to pass two or three days, was not visited at all. The Roan furnished but little. As I returned from the latter I collected some things. And in crossing the Blue Ridge I also collected a few. Still I brought home some 400 specimens of about 40 species, though many of them do not look quite so nice & green as Short's specimens. — I have added two species to my N.C. list of plants (now reaching 1833 species) viz: Schollera graminea (in the Yadkin) & Inula Helenium, abundantly naturalized in Ashe. Cuscuta epilinum & Aconitum reclinatum I had never before collected. The former I did not find east of the Blue Ridge. The latter I found on Toe River in flower, common. Solidago pubens I did not find west of the Blue Ridge, nor S. Curtisii east of it. Cassia Tora I found in Wilkes! Cuscuta adpressa on the Yadkin & the creek at Valle Crucis: C. compacta on the Catawba. — — From the history of my excursion you will not be surprised to hear that I procured no roots for you. I had fully intended to get them, but I found it out of my power to aid you as I wished. — I was exceedingly vexed at myself after getting among the Solidagines to find that I knew nothing of the characters of S. Curtisii, monticola, ambigua & pubens, & I had to pull altogether at random. Though when I finally came upon the last on my return I at once recognized it. The others are still troublesome, & I am not certain that I have gotten a single ambigua. I am none the less pestered by reference to my herbarium; for I find there a specimen you gave me last year as S. ambigua, which agrees neither with your description nor with my specimen of var: lancifolia from which the descr: in the Flora was taken, but looks mightily like S. caesia. I brought some half dozen specimens of the same at a venture. The leaves of the involucre are obtuse in your specimen, as well as mine. — If I am not greatly mistaken in

the plant, the monticola is distinct from Curtisii. Of the latter I have two or three forms. What are your present views in regard to the species of this group? I have only given the plants a hasty examination & have not yet arranged them, as they are not all dry yet. I shall send all my forms to you this fall to get your decision upon them. It was the most unfavorable period in which I could have visited the mountains, as the spring & summer flowers were mostly decayed, while the Compositae were just beginning to open. The first of September is the time. — Where did you find Helianthus laevigatus? I never saw one in Ashe & Yancey, or during my whole journey, though continually on the lookout. —— I observe that Choisy has reduced a good many of Engelmann's, Curtisiae, which I have all along thought should be done, though I have never given his species a particular examination. Engelmann is evidently a keen botanist, but eyes may be too sharp & see too much magnitude in little things. — I looked sharp for Shortia, but non est inventa is still to be written upon it.

A young man by the name of Dow went southward through the mountains last year to Alabama, & returned this Summer. He was at one time but 1½ mile from me in Ashe, but unluckily knew not of it until we were widely separated. He is described as an amiable young man, & he thinks he has got some new things. During my absence last year he left the Mts. to visit me here, but I had heard no more of him till I reached the Roan which he ascended a few days before me. From thence he went to Grandfather, Negro, & White Top to Staunton. His name & address I should like to ascertain. Do you know anything of him? He travels on foot, & appears to be enthusiastic in the pursuit of plants. I take it he is connected with the publisher of a paper in Washington of the same name. —— —— Compliments to Greene. He may expect a parcel from me this Fall. The specimens will be selected with as much judgment as I can exercise, while wholly ignorant of what he wants.

I lately rec.d a most affecting letter from Carey. Poor man! my heart is much pained for his many severe trials. God help him to bear them with holy resignation.

Truly yours

M.A. Curtis

20 11

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Ansd
Jany. 24

Hillsborough N.C. Dec: 22/45.

My Dear Sir,

I am glad to find by your letter rec.d this morning that my plants have at last got to your hands. Their long passage, occasioned by delay in the conveyance hence to Petersburg, had given me some uneasiness until I lately learned from Mr. Sparks that they were received in N. York.

I am also heartily glad that my chief troubles about that group of Solidagines is cleared up by your letter. It only wanted that one fact, of your having transposed the names of S. Curtisii & ambigua in the specimen you gave me, to complete my understanding of those species. Of S. Curtisii I had no specimen, Torrey having kept my only one. Then your "S. ambigua" (immature) puzzled me in relation to the true lancifolia, though I had the original specimen. But I had got them all well defined, though I could not solve the mystery of the names. I had drawn off descriptions of all ready for your names when they came, & now it is all clear as a May morning; - i.e. I know what your plants are & in the Flora. I had become more confirmed by subsequent examination of the distinctness of S. monticola from all the others. In the field it can be recognized at once - generally of a spare habit - & more like S. bicolor in some states when seen at a little distance. Generally I found on the tops of ridges in poor soil. In the study it seems to me to present abundant differences. The achenia are quite characteristic.

- S. lancifolia I cannot of course compare with ambigua, but I think it distinct enough from Curtisii. I recollect full well the appearance of the two, as I saw them in the Mts, mingled to-

gether, but always totally distinct, & never occurring to me as belonging to the same species. Indeed, having forgotten the characters of S. coesia, I was afraid at the time that I was collecting that species, but thought it must be another thing after all, & therefore very fortunately risked burdening myself with a common species. It is needless for me to give you any detailed account of the characters of my specimens, for I took special care to select & send you every form of those species in my posession. You thus have all that I have. No better connecting specimens are in my hands than in yours. — Besides, I am now too sick to make any examination of my specimens. It hurts my head to use my eyes closely, the rheumatism, an old & familiar acquaintance, having gotten posession of my cranium.

S. pubens did remind me sometimes of one of the forms of S. Curtisii, but I nevertheless believe it a distinct species, & easily characterized. They are never found together, that I know of. If the hubescence were all removed, I think I could have no difficulty in discriminating them. The involucres are different, I remember.

I should not deem my judgment, in a case of this sort, of much value if it differed from your own, & should not venture to advise you to ~~accede with me~~ act upon my decisions in a disputed case, however positive I might be in my views. It has however afforded me some gratification when I have found myself arrived independently at the same conclusion with yourself, as in the present instance. Setting aside S. amhigua, of which I know nothing, I would not hesitate to pronounce all these forms to be distinct species. [Now while I think of it, I will mention that I have come to your opinion about Silphium dentatum, Ell. In several attempts made since the publication of that Genus, to discriminate it from S. Asteriscus, I have been quite unsuccessful. The species takes all sorts of shapes between their extremes. — But I have not come to your opinion about Lupinus villosus & diffusus.] — Should you desire it at another time, I will go into detail as well as I can upon these species, though I can hardly think it will be necessary as you have all the material for comparison that I have. As I said before, I am now unable to make careful observations. Until to-day I have not been out for ten days, & have suffered a good deal, though I have not been confined. The weather is now very cold — people putting up ice (2-3 inches thick) — thermometer yesterday morning at +11°. But it is seldom cold here for many days at a time. I am not sure but I have deranged my head somewhat (I am sure I have my fingers) in getting Lichens off my fire-wood for Tuckerman. I am getting interested in these things, which I have long wanted the means of understanding. From what I have gathered, I should judge that we have many different species from those of the Northern district.

If you really desire the return of your observations on Solidago in your letter, I will send it hereafter.

Will you at your leisure give me the names of those other plants I sent you without names, especially the Carex from Roan Mt.? I thought it might be Buckley's miser, but I have no means of determining, my specimen not having got back from Dewey. Should it prove to be that, I want to send a couple to Dewey & will also send you a couple for Boott, if I have so many. It was late in the season, & I got but a few & very poor ones.

I have lately received the first sheet of Nott's continuation of a very long reply to my review — very feeble & some of it laughable. I shall probably give a brief rejoinder.

Your Letter, cover & all, was not charged double postage.

My bibunnoides I left in your hands, but I suppose you enclosed it with that parcel which came from Dewey to Tuckerman for me, containing the Carices I loaned him. If not, I do not know what has become of it. I long to know what you will make of that thing. We must get it somehow from Lincoln.

Torrey is much mistaken about my asclepias, that is certain.

It is very strange that Choisy should have given such a description of Cuscuta compacta, if he really meant Engelmann's plant, & I can hardly believe it. I have written to Engelmann fully upon it.

I will put up some plants for Oakes this winter ...

Accept the following remarks. — I now believe that Dewey is right about Carex tricesps, Mich.

Lobelia Claytoniana, Ell! = L. leptostachys, DC.

Coreopsis discoidea grows here. I have before informed you of its growing at Wilmington. I have one of Sullivant's specimens to identify it.

In looking over this Genus lately I found what appears to be C. integrifolia among my specimens of C. gladiata, collected at Wilmington.

Aconitum uncinatum I found here (in flower) last October.

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

I have made up this rambling letter at intervals during the day, — I hope it will be intelligible. Accept my thanks for your trouble about those Solidagoes. — I shall be glad to hear from you when convenient. — Pray give us another bit of the Flora as soon as you can.

very truly yours — M. A. Curtis

Answd
Jan. 24

Hillsborough N.C. Jan. 13/46.

Dear Sir,

I want to trouble you with a query or two which you can wait your leisure to answer, though I hope you may find time erelong. I have pretty much worked up the Phanerogamia of N. Carolina, at least what is within present reach, & as I must have something to do in the floral line, I want to work now at the Cryptogamia. I have occasionally collected specimens of the latter all along, but have been embarassed exceedingly in their study for want of books & every sort of help. Tuckerman has now set me upon the Lichens, & I am going upon them with fury, as he will be able to help me out of all difficulties. But can I get the like help on the Fungi? Can you introduce me to any botanist, American or foreign, who understands these things & will exchange with me, or will name my specimens for the gift of them? Can I by any means, by purchase or loan, get a copy of Schweinitz' Synopsis Fung: Carol:? I am afraid he was a good deal of a bungler, but his book will help me a good deal. I say this of that very good man, because he attempted too much — because I have seen

some of his plants in Herb: Ell=, & because I notice some very strange discrepancies between his descriptions & arrangement of his Hepaticae & those of Hooker, - & also because others have detected frequent inaccuracies in him. I am ~~not~~ hardly qualified to speak upon the Fungi & Lichenes, but I rather think he has in some instances formed new species in the one out of described species in the other.] - If I could borrow the Synopsis for a short time, it would be of much service. Would it be an acceptable service to publish a new edition of it, with an improved division & arrangement of the Genera, & such additions as could be made to it? What can you say to all these things? I am now in a sad strait when I get hold of a new specimen, as I have no descriptions of species except in Eaton's Manual (5th ed:) & of the British species. I have been flattering myself that I had a pretty new genus of Hysterineae; but it occured to me a few days ago to see if I could not find it in Endlicher, & behold the Genus was established long ago by Muhlenberg under the name of Glonium. [Pray what is the meaning of that word? I can find neither Greek nor Latin for it.] It is so well described, that there can hardly be a mistake about it. But what is the name of the species? I have not Muhl:s Catalogue to ascertain. ~~It~~ The Genus is not in Eaton, & I suspect is not in Schwein: Synop. It is a singularly curious thing; & is not uncommon here. Pray give us a prestige in this department, if you can. I should like, at least, to help somewhat towards a collection of our Fungi for some one, who will give an American Synopsis of the Order.

I was delighted with your account of the "Musci Alleghanienses". Sullivant must be a royal fellow. He has got twice the number of species I had expected, & has produced a far more accurate "Work" than I had anticipated. Can you not find some plea to offer him, why I should be honored with one of those fine "presentation copies"? I must confess that I can invent no higher claim upon him, than that he should pay tribute for having "poached upon my manor." I would make any floral remuneration in my power. I am exceedingly anxious to gather a complete species of N. C. plants, & if I cannot get this collection, I shall be deficient in one of the most interesting departments. I have not a very large variety from the mountains in this Order. Before receiving your notice of these Musci, having lately overlooked my species & supposing Sullivant might be glad to see them, I wrote to him, making him an offer of the whole. I have not heard from him. I cannot study those things much, as the use of lenses upon such small subjects hurts my eyes. I can occasionally do it, but not continually. They form a beautiful study indeed. Some of the species are extremely elegant, & all are interesting. At any rate, see if you can not get me enlisted among the favored Fifty. You shall then be my Magnus - no, you are Magnus already - my Maximus Apollo.

I have filled my sheet without intending it. I must yet say, - Give us more of the Flora as soon as you can.

very truly your obliged friend - M. A. Curtis

P.S. – McDowell of Franklin has lately been very ill & near to death. He cannot yet articulate a word, though he can sit up & write.

P.S. No 2. – I have had the promise of the Herbarium of the late Geo. Wilson of Newbern, which I begged of the family, & am constantly expecting its arrival. This will help me in exchanges a good deal, though I expect little that is new.

P.S. No 3. I do not yet hear of the white Nelumbium. I am afraid my friend who promised it was unsuccessful last summer. He got me a capsule the year before, which encourages pursuit, & I shall not give up till the thing is settled. The locality is but a day's ride from Wilmington, & if McRee was not so full of business I would urge him in pursuit.

Answd March 12.

Hillsborough, N.C. Feb: 12/46

Dear Sir,

Your letter of 24th ult: was duly welcomed, but I had a most hearty vexation when I found you had sent Schweinitz' Synops. Fung:. I had lost many things in the mail during the previous month or two; & now a loss that could not be repaired provoked me to thoughts dire & savage. I would depose every P. Master from Boston to Hillsborough, including the P.M. G. himself, & give none of them but corn bread & water until the lost packet was recovered. Three days afterward our P.M. was in my room, to whom I gave a list of my grievances & closed with the last & saddest of all; when he said there was a pamphlet in the Office for me, answering the description. It had come back from Greensborough whither it had travelled in the "Big Mail", which is not opened here. I was polite enough to ask him, if he was going home soon, at the same time putting on my hat & coat. Well, old Schweinitz was there sure enough. Thanks — many thanks for this. It shall be taken care of, saving only the thumbing it may get. It is very valuable as a directory - but is incomplete. I have things which he does not mention. -

I have written to Phil[illegible] for his other paper. But I must have Fries. How can I get it? — Would not Greville's Scot: Fl. Cryst: be valuable for its figures? What would it cost? Also Sowerby's colored figures of English Fungi? What would this cost?

When I get Berkeley's address, I will write to him. I have sent a message to Fries through Tuckerman, but he (T.) declines to be the bearer of specimens.

You wonder how Schweinitz did so much with his "outside way

of looking at things." Why, sir, that is the very way to do much. It would take much longer to dig through the earth than to go round it. — That is the very way I am going to work upon the Fungi. I have not the money to purchase books & fine glasses — nor the eyes to strain upon minute asci & minuter sporidia. Other folks must do that kind of work. I merely want to be doing something in the floral line, which will give me sufficient recreation without much labor or expense. I have got to the end of Phanerogamia about here, & must therefore go to Cryptogamia. What I can do remains to be proved. I can at least amuse myself, & make collections for abler heads & hands. I think likely too, that I might manufacture a tolerable Introduction (by compilation) with a Synopsis & description of Gen: & Spec. (huc usque cognita) which would be a good start for others who are disposed to enter upon the subject. We have no book in English upon the subject — nothing for an American to begin upon.

Have not Hitchcock & Torrey some Fungi that they would let me have, at least as a loan? I intend to write to Emmons as soon as I can learn his address. Do you know it?

Could you not get another volume from Germany containing Schwein: Synop. Fung: Carol? — I wish you would try, & at my expense. I can then keep the copy you sent, which ought to be bound for preservation, & which I should like to bind up with his other Memoir in the Phil. Trans: with blank leaves enough to admit any additions I may ~~may~~ be able to make. Thus I shall have a unique copy of Fungi Americani.

Sprengel I can get from McKee, I think.

Torrey's note to Glonium is sadly misplaced. Every part of that plant is as black as ebony, & no man would ever apply the specific name of coccineum to it. "Gyropodium coccineum" belongs to Mitremyces lutescens, of which Schwein: gives a full description & figure in Syn. Fung: Carol. He afterwards made the Gen: Gyropodium to receive it, which Hitchcock published in Sill: Journ:. At least Hitchcock gives Schweinitz the credit of the name in Map: Catalogue. But Endlicher restores it to Mitremyces.

Will you do me the favor to ask Harris if he has ever determined the character of the black excrescence upon Plum trees, which is so injurious & common. I had always supposed it the work of insects, I hardly know why, but Schweinitz, with some hesitation apparently, has put it among the Fungi (Sphaeria morbosa.)

I have heard from Sullivant — & shall be glad to assist him in collecting the Mosses of this State. I shall be happy always to forward the labors of any good fellow, in any department of Botany, who will make good use of the materials. — I have taken the liberty of begging from S. all species of Musci collected in N.C. I want to make up as complete a N. Am: collection as possible. Perhaps you could help me out a little, eh? ——— Have you got a copy of Schweinitz' Musci Elevatici? If not, perhaps I can get you one. Luckily I had one left for Sullivant.

I do not know how to manage so as to make Rout or any of his associates understand the precise species of Solidago you want. There are so many there, that he would be as likely to get one as another. My best chance, I think, will be with the Bishop who will be there in the season, & who has a better taste & eye in these matters. I can give him instructions over my Herbarium, & fragments of spec:, first May, when he will be here. I reckon this will answer, on the whole.

I have lately got possession of the Flora of the late Geo: Wilson of Newbern — not much in it — & most of the specimens indifferent. Only one new thing in it (i.e. new to my N.C. list.) viz: Begonia verticillata! I was however surprised at finding Malaxis liliifolia, about which I always supposed Croom had made a mistake in his Catalogue, as I knew he had made a good many others. — Yes, I should have mentioned Ceratochaenus & Polygonum hirsutum macrostachys, as new also. There are two fine specimens of Rottboellia, which I have never found myself, but which Croom had given me a fragment. The collection wants a great many of the Newbern plants, & is especially meagre in Cyperaceae & Compositae.

I have got a bundle of plants ready for Oakes which I shall send in the Spring. But I do not want all N. England plants in return. I had rather make a selection. I have most of them already. How shall I manage him? —— I have been too much drugged with common plants. He fellows all about will send parcels of what I dont want, & often with but two or three species of what I do want. —— Do you think that knave of a Buckley (I cant give him a gentler name) has not been trying to trick me again? Since his Florida trip he has twice attempted an exchange with me, which indeed I am anxious to do;- but I had found him out before, & therefore have endeavored to evade his tricks.

Prof. A. Gray.
Cambridge
Mass.

Miss Mrs
Asa Gray

I offer to give him three for one, but I must receive his plants first. He does not reply to the offer, though I deem it generous enough, as he is at liberty to designate what I shall send him. But he has cheated me enough already, & I am not to be caught again. I have no doubt he intended another imposition. If not, why does he retreat from his own repeated propositions?- especially when I give him three for one? He is already largely indebted to me. But enough of him.

Truly yours — M. A. Curtis

P.S. What is the matter of Greene, that he does not give me a list of southern desiderata. I want to pay him for the fine lot he gave me;- but I do not wish to send what he does not want.

Hillsborough N.C. March 21st/46

Ans. d. 15 Apl

My Dear Sir,

Yours of the 12th came this morning, & as I generally like to answer my letters on the span of their fresh perusal, here comes Monsieur again.

I gave Dewey my last Carex nigro-marginata near two years ago. Luckily a rather indifferent specimen came back to me lately in Herb: Wilson, which I will enclose. I will also look into my Herb: for a better one, if I can spare one. You can then take which you please for yourself. I must try to get more of this thing. I have not met with it here, though it ought to be here. It is common about Raleigh.

Done. I will thank you to order Fries Mycologia & Elenchus for me. I wish also you would try for another copy of Schwein: Fung. Carol: & at my expense. I desire very much to own a copy. Schweinitz's Species come along gradually to hand, & in a few years I hope I shall be able to get hold of most of them.

I will try to remember your request for Dionaea from McKee. Do you want merely the flowers? So I understand you.

I shall look for your slash at the Vestiges with much interest. I read that work with much pleasure on account of its interesting subject & ingenious handling, but I abominate its philosophy. The Explanations I have not seen; but I notice that some think his former reviewers have need to review themselves. I am glad you give notice to the thing; & "lay on Macduff" - say I. I feel that his system is wrong, though it would not be easy for me to give it a thorough logical refutation, because I have not science enough.

I have been suspecting, though I cannot tell how it came into my head, that you would get my Vaccin: ursinum into Gaylussacia. Why not make it & its allies a Section (your Decachaena) of Vaccinium, & leave Gaylussacia to the perennial leaved species? What with you & Gray for perennial [illegible]

I am quite tickled at a lucky guess of mine, though I never dared to make it known to you, about that Oblunoides. From the time that Buckleya came into my profession I took up the view of its affinities which you have arrived at, & stated it to Buckley five or six years ago. However, it was of course guess work. I am glad that you are likely to get to the end of it at last. I cannot hope to get Hunter after it. He seldom leaves his farm, & I have not been able to get from him for more than two years what grows within his reach. I have begged him for your Carex Huntii, but I cannot even get a letter from him. But I will try him again. Did I not tell you, that I visited the locality of Darlya last Aug:, & could not find a vestige of it, though it was abundant ten years ago? It is only about 12-18 inches high.

It is useless to address Pratt about Pyrularia. He never could find it. I have copies of Michaux & Pursh. The former I picked up (second hand) at Little & Brown's in 1833 (Boston) & gave $6. for it. Pursh cost me nothing, but it cost the donor $14!

I have Carex flacca (glauca) from Raleigh, N.C. — have had it six or seven years, but could not make it out, till I got it Jersey & European specimens. Dewey says it is C. glauca. I have now but a single specimen.

I meant to send you a specimen of Phacelia from Newberne in my next letter, but these Carices exclude it. It appears to be P. parviflora. (Cosmanthus, D.C.), but I want your decision upon it. There are also a Panicum & a Blethra from Wilson's Coll. which I wish to send you.

Did you ever see a specimen of Ipomaea from the Southern coast similar to I. sagittaefolia, but with very narrow linear, short petioled, leaves; calyx shorter, & the contracted part of the tube of corol shorter &c. &c.? I have a specimen from Sullivant's Island, S.C. which I once sent to Torrey, who pronounced it a var: of I. sagitt:. I am rather dubious about it, & should like your matured opinion upon it. But I speak of it mainly to say, that if you have never seen this form, & have none in profession & desire it, I will loan mine to you, till you have got through the Convolvulaceae.

What has become of my Darlya? If you have it, well & good. I thought you had enclosed it with the parcel from Dewey. That has arrived, but nothing from you.

When shall you publish your illustrations of Thermopsis? I feel wondrously attached to that Genus, & proud of my pets in it. By the way, if you have any other species in cultivation, I wish you would get a specimen of each for me the next season, if you can spare them.

I wish you would always let me know what plants you wish from the South. I will willingly collect for you whatever is in my reach. Especially give me a list of such species as you do not possess. It may happen that I have plants which you have not, & never send them because I suppose them common. Such was the case with Houlaia pubescula till you found it in the Mts. I first got it in Raleigh in, 30. I had made no account of it, supposing it common enough, & it had passed out of memory until you mentioned your wonderful discovery to me in 1844, & showed me your specimens. I believe I am now out of specimens, having put up my last for Oakes.

In a former letter, I asked your opinion of a nameless Carex sent in my last parcel to you, collected on the Roan. I suspected it was C. miser, Buckl: but not having my original specimen, I did not decide. That has returned, & on comparison I believe I was right. I have but three or four, & poor ones, as they were collected late in Aug: — Booth has begged specimens of this, & if you say it is the plant, I will spare him half. Dewey must have a share. —— I must try hard this Spring to find C. Mitchelliana again. It will probably be a week's work.

Truly yours.

A. Gray.

P.S. — Have been out to day in search of Carex nigromarg: — non est inventa. What on earth has become of Tuckerman? Odd fellow he, I suspect. — I am disappointed in not hearing again from Sullivant.

P.S. I wish you would write to Darby & ascertain the flowering time of Darbya. I am writing to Hunter to urge him to collect the plant. But I shall be more likely to succeed with him, if I can inform him of the precise time to make search. He lives 20 miles from the locality. Let me know as soon as you hear from Darby.

P.S. I have taken out the specimen of Carex for Carey - it fills the letter too full - I have another package made up for C. into which I can put it.

I have written to Prof. Mitchell for a copy of Schwein. Herbat. [illegible]

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

not fr

Hillsborough N.C. Apr: 23/46

Answd
27 May

My Dear Sir

Many thanks for yours of the 15th. Those plates are fine – but the coloring not so good. Both of them too green & glossy. Hemiopsis flowers too deep yellow, & too green. – I am astounded, though not quite "frightened" by your new project. A splendid attempt, & I hope you will be successful. It will take in Europe, if it does not here. & must try to get it, if the Vols: do not come along too fast. By the time you get down to Vol: X. I will have some nice Fungi for you. Command me for any material you want – will be ever at your service – I am proud of your labors as an American production, & will do anything to have them perfect & unexceptionable.

Of Plantago interrupta I have but a single specimen – never had any other – collected at Wilmington. If you had no specimen I would send mine. & think it is the true plant, yet in my rapick observations upon Elliott's Herb: I thought his was unlike mine.

Your enquiry about a species like P. fusilla reminded me of a thing in my Herb: (collected near Charleston on the bank of a ditch by the road side) which I had doubtfully refered to P. fusilla. On looking at it now, I find it answers your description, only it is slightly hairy, & the seeds, in the only capsule I opened, more than twelve – fifteen I think. I originally took it for fusilla & distributed it as such; (No! I remember I saw but the single root which I have retained.) But after receiving the Western plant, I put a (?) to the Charleston thing. My specimen has two stems full grown, & a young one, but will not

bear dividing. As you have specimens, you will not need this. But if you desire it, I will entrust it to a letter for your examination - & if it gets lost you can give me another, if you have any to spare. I found this thing in sight of Charleston & in a region that Elliott often visited. — I take Walter's P. caroliniana, as Elliott suggests, to be P. interrupta, a smooth form. Did you not find it in Herb: Walt:?

I received your Review of that "stat nominis umbra" man, & also Bowen's, for which I am greatly obliged to you. I read them with great interest. Yours I have read twice - it is well done. I only regretted, that now & then a point was not more fully expanded & driven home by a severer logical exposure. The truth is, that although the author has the materials for a consistent scheme, & the circle is there in its completeness, yet he has unwittingly intersected it with several smaller circles which need but a skilful hand to grasp & spoil the whole. After all, you have perhaps done enough for a single paper, & in your allusion & hints are found the ovaries of all I allude to

You do not tell me whether you have ever seen that form of Convolvulus mentioned in my last letter - though you tell me to send it. I will send it before long. After my Spring collections are made, I shall have some parcels to send North, & shall enclose some things for you. — Do you want the flowers of Umbraria pubescula? —

I made a visit to a sick man in Caswell county a fortnight since, & there found Carex nigro-marginata. On returning home I determined to search here for it, believing that I had seen it, though the locality is so uninviting in a general way, that I botanize very little about Hillsborough. Well, I found it within a mile of my door, & shall send you enough, I guess, to supply your friend Boott, & leave a couple for yourself.

Have you ever come to any decision about my Marshallia lanceolata, β latifolia, caulescens, platyphylla, or what you please?

I think you will not make it out M. latifolia, Mich.

Pray do not lose my specimen of Sarbya — it is very doubtful whether I ever get any more. I have not heard from Hunter yet. — The surest way for you to get Dionaeae from Michx will be to write to him yourself just in their flowering time, which is June 1st. These Southern fellows have to be moved in the zeal of a first impulse. The same application will do perhaps for Gordonia, which opens about June 20th. He would not have to ride half a mile to get either. The latter does not extend back far from the sea coast - & is not to be had near Fayetteville. If you prefer it, I will attend to these things myself, but shall wait till the last of May. I lately wrote to the Dr. but did not mention your wants. I hope, when you give a plate of Dionaea, you will not give the ciliae so coarse as they are generally represented.

I have heard from Sullivant - am forwarding specimens of my Muscí by letter from all parts of the State - fear I shall not furnish much interesting matter from my present stock - mean to collect all I can for him.

Have you ever studied Lichenes? Do you known all the forms referred to Parmelia subfusca by Tuckerman, & I suppose, by Fries? With no little attention to these things the past winter, I cannot but think they have included very distinct species under it. Yet I should have no right to a positive contradiction of those who are more familiar with the subject, & have studied attentively. I am seeking support for my own opinion. The older writers give it. Achanius is at one extreme & Fries the other, I take it. —— I have now got Schweinitz: Paper on Fungi of U.S. in Phil: Trans. - much better than the other - will be a fine directory - but if I can get to our Mts or Low Country, I shall be in a region such as he never visited, & where many new things are to be gotten. I think his species will need much reducing - very desirable any how. I have written to Berkeley, but should be glad also of the assistance of some Coryphaeus in Mycology like Fries, who is constantly & lovingly working at Fungi. Is there such a

man in the world? — I have written to Torrey to exchange, give, or loan, as best suits him; anything he may have. — If I had nothing else to do now, what havoc I would make among the Fungi. It would be a life's work to elaborate the Fungi of the U.S. — so extensive, so obscure, are they. I must try to open the way for somebody in this direction.

What a babbler I am! — talking on at such a rate! But

believe me very truly & respectfully yours

Mett.

P.S. — By this or by next mail, I shall send to you, at his request, a copy of Schweinitz' Hepaticae for Sullivant. I will send one for yourself when I can get one from Prof: Mitchell. Tuckerman has one.

Ask about Lycoperdon stictum, & exsiccata = Louisiana & fruit of Lobelia

Prof: A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

P.S. again. I enclose a spec: of Phacelia from Newhem. Is P. parviflora? Will send better hereafter, if you wish.

Hillsborough N.C. June 10/46.

Dear Sir,

Your letter arrived during my absence at Raleigh — glad to hear from you — sorry the Flora is intermitted — am furious to see another number.

While in Raleigh I took time to visit my locality of Leptopoda brevifolia B— got 16 specimens — as many as I could reach in the miserable quagmire. Will you have a couple? On my return from the excursion, near the town I found by the roadside a few stems of Campanula Ludoviciana — the true thing, but rather starved. (I enclose a specimen.) What is the range of that species? If I am not much mistaken, I have met with it before in this State, though I preserved no specimens.

I have just turned to Michaux to read his descr: of Plantago sparsiflora — which I find I have pencilled "P. interrupta Lam?" I should rather doubt of its being the "Pusillord" plant — would he call the leaves of that lanceolate & subentire, when they are linear & entire. And would he not have indicated the size of the plant, so much smaller & more delicate than any other of his species? But if you cannot decide the question, pray, how can I?

I have heard from Berkeley. He receives my proposals very favorably, & offers returns. ——— I find I did not send the copy of Schweinitz — forgot it. But the Phacelia I must have put in the letter. Yet I know not how it could get out, unless it dropped unnoticed when you opened the letter. I have a pretty distinct recollection of having enclosed it.

Prof: Mitchell has no more copies of Schwein: Hepaticae. He made the Trustees all take a copy — & I mean to hunt up what can be found among them. I am on the track of one already. You shall have the first I get.

When I first discovered Lysimachia angustifolia, I well remember the careful comparison I made of it with L. stricta — & sent it to Torrey under the latter name. I doubt its specific distinctness. (I have no fruit of L. asperulaefolia.) The true L. stricta grows in the low country, where L. angustifolia is found, as well as in the western part of the State, near Morganton {L. angust: is confined to the low country.

I have been working two or three days on two parcels of plants from S. Car: (another is on the way:) some specimens of which have given me much trouble. I wished you at my elbow many a time. Some 8 or 10 I cannot make out, & shall have to send to you. — Of the rest, I will mention such as are likely to afford you any new information as to their range.

Galactia sepiliflora. Precise locality not given.

Amorpha glabra. Cheraw, S.C. more glabrous than my N.C. specimens, & leaves very small. Cal: teeth rather longer.

Coreopsis integrifolia. St. John's, Berkley. Specimen incomplete, but I think is correct. It was sent as "C. Leavenworthii?". Flower agrees with my Wilmington specimen. — These were sent by Rev: C. Wallace of St. John's Parish. A Liatris & Vicia in the same parcel I cannot make out.

A parcel of some 180 species from Tuomey, who is making a Geological Survey of S.C. contained many choice species, though not well preserved. Goodyera repens? Whiteside Mt. This is new to me, & I am uncertain about it.

Lobiate A plant, with large red flowers, somewhat akin to Salvia & Dicerandra. I have the same, without name, from Chapman. I have not Bentham's Labiatae, & cannot determine it. It is not Gardoquia Lecontii.

Aristida tuberculosa? Same as yours of that name from N. Jersey.

Aster elodes, surculosus, Carolinianus.

Sarracenia rubra. Chamaerops serrulata. Muhlenbergia filipes, mihi.

Cenchrus incertus, mihi. (C. tribuloides, Ell!) {Sorghum halepalifed in N.C. & S.C. & something of a pest in S.C.

Carphephorus bellidifolius, & some half dozen I don't know.

Would you like a specimen of double flowering Melia Azedarach? A tree with such flowers has appeared in Wilmington, & a few specimens have been sent me. I shall send you a parcel of things when I send again to the North. I am preparing a good set for Oakes. — I cannot hear from Hunter. My friend who promised to get me the white Nelumbium last year, disappointed me. I have sent him word to try again. — There is no Shortia nearer to me than 30 miles, that I know of. — About Diamorpha. It is just possible that I may have three weeks to spare during the Summer, while our Church is repairing. If so, I have it in contemplation to visit Lincolnton for Darbya, & I can then stop a day at Salisbury to get seeds of Diamorpha. But all this is uncertain. I intended a trip this week in search of Carex Mitchelliana, but could not make it out, & it must now lie over another year.

I see my Rejoinder to Nott is out — but as it is mere explanation, it would not interest you. Besides, no sheets have been furnished me. It is printed most rascally. I learn from several quarters, that my Review has done good service. The Doctor is now enlightening the world on Mesmerism, in which he is a believer & experimenter. His pamphlet I have not seen. He ought to send me a copy, eh?

You ask, if I have anything to say on Lysimachia. — I have no strange forms except of L. quadrifolia. A dwarf state occurs on our Mts, with narrowe & acute sepals. I enclose a flower of the common form (No. 1.) collected near Charleston S.C. & one (No. 2.) from Table Rock, N.C. — I sent specimens of the latter to Torrey.

I will send flowers of Uvularia pubescula, when I send you a parcel. This is probably common through the whole middle country upon rocky hills — plentiful here, & I have it from Raleigh — supposed it to be common till you informed me otherwise. ——— I have never seen Carphephorus corymbosus. Should a spare specimen fall into your hands, I wish you would lay it by for me. But any odd things, especially Compositæ, Salices, Gramineæ & Cyperaceæ, I should like to have from you, when you cannot find any cleverer subjects for your favor.

I have been examining the Plum & Cherry tree excrescences. It is a true fungus!

To Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Can I send you roots of Carex nigro-marginata by mail in any way? The roots are hard to kill, & I reckon will bear the journey well enough. What do you say? Yet they will be of no use this year, so that there is no need of haste. I only fear I shall forget your wants. — I am much obliged to you for the trouble of getting Ferns for me. I find the Phanerogams claiming attention this Summer more than the Fungi.

very respectfully M. A. Curtis

Hillsborough June 18th /46.

My Dear Sir,

Your last of June 8th & 11th, with post mark of 13th, is just received. Thank you for Sullivant's Enumeratio, which I shall probably get next Autumn.

I will write to McKee by this mail, though I hope he has already attended to your wants. But you will be in a bad box sometimes, if the progress of your new work is to depend at all on the promptness of these Southern professional gentlemen. This is a lazy climate, & we dislike doing more than necessity urges. We have no objection to applications, receiving them indeed in all courtesy & honor; but our excuses, when made, must be received as true & all-sufficient.

I have never seen Cocculus Carolinus in any part of the middle region of N. C. east of Mecklenberg & Lincoln. It grows there, & in our low country. Of course it is not in my reach. I will mention it to McKee, but I doubt if he knows any locality of it (I do not) in the immediate vicinity of Wilmington. It grows at his plantation, 16 miles from Wilmington, & perhaps may get it (if handy) when he visits there.

When I write to Tuomey, I will mention your account of Sida Elliottii. Our correspondence is about one letter a year.

And now for the chief matter which induces me to write — the European plants on the way to you. I would not snap my finger for the whole of them! I have no ambition to be a Botanist, properly so called. I should like it well enough, if I had nothing else to do; but as I

meddle with Flora, only for recreation. I find quite play enough in her N. American products. To those I resolved from the first to confine myself, & have always given away whatever foreign plants have come to hand. I have only retained such species, for purposes of comparison, as are identical or very similar with some of our own species. This is the general rule. But now for the exception. Carex & all Cryptogamiae I receive, & shall be glad to get, from any quarter. Whatever of these may turn up in your collections, I will take, & pay for with Southern plants.

What have you finally made out of that vaccinium I sent from here, like V. Pennsylvanicum & Constablaei? I call it by the latter name. I never got the flowers of it till this Spring, & only a few now, having collected rather too late. But I have not compared the flowers yet with your Roan Mt. specimen. Do you want specimens?

I have notice from Wiley & Putnam, that they have N. Prod: X. which I am anxious to see. I hope to receive it in three or four weeks. — What is Kunth doing? Is his Enum: V. out yet? I do not like the way he cuts up things; yet he is no worse than Endlicher & Choisy in DC.

I have nothing to communicate further, I believe.

Lebe wohl.

M. A. Curtis

10

Send me the
Answer to the Enclosure

Prof: A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass:

Hillsborough July 20/46.

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 13th just arrived - also Elenchus Fung - all safe. Glad to receive these - but more anxious for the Systema. I believe I will risk the rest by mail - Send them in separate parcels, about the size of the last - one only in the same mail. I think this the safest.

I will send the money next Autumn to Wiley & Putnam, as I have other accounts to settle with them. I will settle earlier by mail, if you wish; but I generally send money by our merchants.

I will send you a spec: or two of Leptopoda. Amoph Carolin: I have already put away in a parcel for somebody else, I think. But if I come across it again, before sending the parcel off, I will get it out for you. - You do not mention the Campanula sent in my last.

The labiate plant mentioned in my last is not what I have taken for Colaminth a grandiflora.

I shall not take a western tour this year. Diamorpha & Darbya must remain untouched for the present. I hear nothing from Hunter. I know not what has got into him. On my

way through Lincoln, last August. I heard he had lost his wife the week previous; but I have no further confirmation of it.

I continue my work upon Fungi — am gaining ground slowly, & increasing my interest in them — have about 500 species ready for Berkeley — to be sent as soon as I hear again from him.

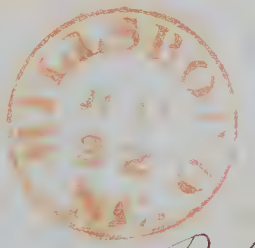
I wrote to Torrey long ago about Fungi, but get no answer — wonder if he got my letter.

I have been sending mosses to Sullivant — about a hundred species. I have heard from him upon the first Thirty Four only. Among these he finds several interesting species — Phascum muticum from Hillsborough, & Grimmia Drummondi from Wilmington, he had never collected. Splachnum setaceum, Mich. he had found a "mere scrap" of, near Mobile. I have good specimens from Wilmington, & also Dicranum condensatum. Hypnum molle, never found so far south before, from Grandfather. In the remainder I do not expect he will find much if anything of special interest. Most all my mosses I sent to Torrey a dozen years ago, but he never gave me any notice of them. I could now send their names to him. — I mean to do all I can for Sullivant. It is a pleasure to serve so clever a fellow as he appears to be. Besides, I want our Flora to be as completely worked up as can be.

I enclose in this letter a few flowers of the Vaccinium, gathered ~~for~~ as belonging to that doubtful species from here. It may not be the same thing after all. I can however, if you wish it, send specimens that will settle the matter. I am now writing in great haste.

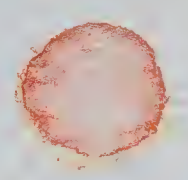
Very respectfully

M. A Curtis.



PAID 10

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.



Hillsborough N.C. Aug: 11/46

Answd
Sept 14th

My Dear Sir,

I take the liberty of putting you at your ease on the fate of Tries. The several instalments reached me safely, and are reposing in honor at my elbow. Thanks for your kindness — will do as much for you, when I have opportunity.

I have been bothered to day with a Gonolobus which I found here different from anything I have before collected — Leaves oblong cordate, short acuminate, with scattering hairs. Pedunde & pedicels short, smooth. Sepals very acute, short. Petals purple & with short beards within, purplish green & smooth without, & linear lanceolate. Fruit not seen. I will send you a specimen, & hope the fruit will appear before I send. I am now trying to get my packages ready to send off soon. There will be a small one for you, in which I hope there will be some things you can make good use of. A few are unknown to me, on which I want your judgment.

Go ahead with the Flora.

Very truly yours

W. A. Curtis

HILLSBORO
APR
12
N.C.

PAID 10

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Hillsborough N.C. Sept: 19th/46

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 14th is before me — glad to hear of your luck in getting Stuartia &c. I have been out this afternoon in search of things for you, & made a discovery for myself. I found Gaura ~~angustifolia~~ — too old though for specimens — which I did not before know was found out of the low country. It is here much stouter, & the leaves anything but angustifol.

Passiflora lutea grows here — being found from the coast to the mountains — but I could not recal a single locality, although I have met with it the past Summer. I could not find it to day. But P. incarnata is abundant throughout the South. Every child, black or white — could go out & bring me plenty of ~~May-pops~~. They are now just ripe, & fit for eating — to those who like them. They have a pleasant acid in the pulp that encloses the seeds, but the outer rind of the fruit has an odor which is very unpleasant & prevents me from eating the thing much. — Well, I got several for you, & will send them on as you request. The vial I have got will hold two or three. Much good may they do you.

Of Villarsia, I have no seeds of V. ~~lacunosa~~ trachystema, but luckily have some of V. cordata from Florida. I have never seen the latter in this State. I enclose you two seed vesels.

I also enclose another thing just received from Mooney, who received it from somebody, who got it at Beaufort, S.C.

A Sh. Read of Phil^a told the latter that he had never seen it except in the W. Indies. I should like to know what it is, & to have the specimen returned, as I have no more.

Campanula Ludovic: is certainly distinct from C. amplex. Not only the leaves are different, but the fruit is differently shaped.

I have put up a specimen of that Gonolobus — but without fruit. I can however say that it is muricate, having seen the same in fruit 20 miles from here since I last wrote, but like a dunce neglected to gather it, being too much elevated by the company of four or five ladies to think of my future necessities. I find this in both cases on the sandy banks of streams.

This reminds me of Cicuta compacta, which I have invariably found on the margin of streams. I have collected it on the Catawba, Yadkin, & Eno. (head stream of the Neuse which passes here.) It evidently prefers shrubs its herbacious plants, though often found on the latter — & I have found it here mostly on Alnus. It flowers rather earlier than C. vulgivaga. The latter is now in full flower, part of the capsules being just at their full size.

I have been running over my Convolvulaceae to-day, to see if I had any thing likely to interest you, but I see nothing. The linear-leaved I. sagittaefolius (?) I have put up in the little parcel for you. Should you conclude it a distinct species, suppose you call it I. Bachmanii after the discoverer. — I have concluded to enclose a leaf of this species of a hastate form, which is not so common. A larger leaf on my specimen (being the only one I cannot send it) has the auricles at right angles to the limb. Excepting that the peduncle is 1 fl^a, it agrees wholly with Choisy's β diversifolia. I have not paid attention enough to Choisy's account of this Order to be able to suggest anything definite as to his species. I am disposed to question the propriety of his cutting up the old Genera Convolv: & Ipomaea as he has done. I should think if Gilia could stand, as Bentham has arranged, that Ipom: & Convv: might hold nearly their former limits. ——— Stylisma evolvuloides I do think distinct from S. Pickeringii, yet in some respects they are much alike, & the former certainly has narrow leaves sometimes, though I never saw them linear. The latter I have found only in very arid sandy soil. — By the way, what business has Choisy to overlook so many old names? He has made a new one for this, when Ed Walter could have furnished two, according to his own synonymy.

When you look again at Herb: Muhl: pray look at his specimens of Galactia glabella, so as to ascertain what species Nuttall means by his G. mollis, which he says is there confounded with the former. I still believe I am right in that matter.

"How go Fungi?" — Oh, right smart, as we Southerners say. I think I shall do something with them yet. But I find I must get better glasses. Which are the best, at a reasonable price? Do Chevalier's answer for such things? And would his smaller sized ones serve me? I intend to consult Berkeley about this. I am collecting continually, & will have a fine collection in time. If I could only have a month's examination of Schweinitz' Herb: it would give me a noble lift. I am getting enough into the matter to see that Schweinitz, although a keen Mycologist on the whole, carried the same superficial habit into this department, which he showed in the others. — That is a brave book of Fries. I handed the money for that to a merchant to day to be paid to H. & P.

Do you know what was Withering's mode of preserving Fungi? Do you know any good way of preserving the watery species? I find the Agarici & Bolleti &c. of the watery kind, very difficult to manage.

Let us have your Flora out as soon as may be. The Botanists are getting impatient.

I had intended getting your parcel with others off last month — but here they lie still. Waggons rarely go to

Petersburg at this season, but will now soon be moving.
I send the whole to Carey.
Very respectfully — M. A. Curtis

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Wilmington N. C. Oct: 31, '46.

Ans.
Nov. 6.

My Dear Sir

My parcels of plants left Hillsborough some ten or twelve days ago, & I must now hasten to inform you that the vial of Passiflora fruit will not be found in the parcel of plants directed to you. I thought the safest place of deposit was in the paper Box directed to Dr. Gould. You will therefore open that, & will find the vial wrapped in brown paper & directed to you. I hope it will reach you in sufficient order for your purpose.

I have troubled you with those parcels to Gould, Oakes, & Sullivant, as the most convenient to me, & in the hope that no particular inconvenience would fall upon yourself. Will you do me the favor to set them in motion towards their proper destination?

I found here a package which has been lying six months awaiting me, & which I had not cared to have forwarded, supposing it was hardly worth the freight. To day I have opened it, & find it a very beautiful collection made in S. Car:, & containing many very desirable species, though I have yet reached nothing, I believe, which is unknown to me. They were

given me by a clergyman of S.C. who has relinquished his Botany, & has no further use for an Herbarium. Among them I found three beautiful specimens of Villarsia lacunosa, one being in good fruit. This reminded me of your wants and has hurried me to write. I enclose two or three capsules for you, hoping they will be of service.

I made a blunder in my last letter. When I came to examine my Gaura, I found it was G. biennis, only rather smaller than usual.

I am anxious to do great things here for two or three weeks among Fungi, Lichenes, Musci & Hepaticae. I have already looked upon things (I arrived day before yesterday) which would make Sullivant & Tuckerman dance a hornpipe. Think of Grimmia Drummondi for the former; & Cenomyce leporina for the latter.

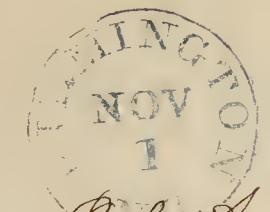
I have sent Berkeley some 500 species of Fungi. I am getting in love with these things more & more, & rather think I shall accomplish something yet. But I tell you what, it is a huge work before me.

I noticed Biscutta compacta near streams between this & Goldsborough. I see it also in this new collection from S.C. growing upon Pinos glabra or coriacens. It must therefore be common from the coast to the mountains, I think.

I write in haste, & must get my letter in the office. I return to Hillsborough in about three weeks (S.C.) where I shall be glad to hear from you. Do you want Plecs? McKee has had the kindness to collect quite a number for me.

Very respectfully & truly yours

M. A. Curtis.



10

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Wilmington, N. C. Nov: 23 '76.

Dear Sir,

I had intended leaving here to day, but have a bad cold, & am moreover half distracted with the poison of Rhus radicans. My hands & face are well covered with eruptions, & are somewhat swollen. And oh, how they itch! I found some fine Fungi on the vines, & as they appeared to be dead, I did not anticipate any evil result from handling them. This is my third course from the poison of Rhus, & I hope the last.

Your letter of the 6th is before me — sorry you do not know the plant I sent you — shall probably send it again some time or other. — I enclose another thing found here a few days ago in a stagnant hole of water. I never saw it before. The leaves were mostly fallen off, & forming a green mass ½ inch thick over the water. What do you call it? You can keep the specimens. Besides this, I have now found Chara coronata, A. Braun (C. capitata, Ell.! C. nidifica, Schwein!) Cuscuta compacta, & Herpestis amplexicaulis, growing here. I always add something, I believe, when I visit Wilmington.

Rhea roots are gathered for you, & in McKee's care.

they will be sent soon, I reckon. Baldwina is not found this side of the River, nor do I remember any locality of it. McKee seems to know where it grows, a few miles down the other side of the River; but it would be difficult to find it at this season. Spring is the time, & I will push the Doctor to try for it next year. He retires from practice in January, & thinks he shall then be able do a little more in Botany.

I will send you dried specimens of Plea next Spring.

Send me your Memoir in Amer. Acad. by Mail.

I hope my parcels of Plants have reached you by this time. Let me know your mind upon the unnamed as soon as convenient.

I lost the first week here by continued rains — & subsequently could not do as well as I wanted in the swamps, they being too wet. However, I have made a fair haul, & have some fine Musci, Hepaticae, Lichenes, & Fungi. Where the mischief did you find Sphagnum in fruit? I formerly searched unsuccessfully for it — & now cannot find a single capsule among ten thousand cart loads of it.

Do you want a specimen of Splachnum setaceum, Grimmia Summondii, & Phascum muticum? I can serve you.

I shall be truly rejoiced if Oakes will take up the Fungi. Can you not persuade him to devote himself wholly or chiefly to these, & give us a Mycologia Americana? He is rich, & can afford the necessary expenditures of money & time, which is more than I can do to the required extent. He shall have all my aid, if he will fairly give himself to the work. I am accumulating material & knowledge pretty well, & am in fine humor with the subject. I only want a little more sympathy from some one or two good fellows. Berkeley is too far off for frequent conference. There are heaps of fine Fungi in this Low Country, I doubt not. I have picked up some odd things here. But I had to leave the watery sorts, not being able to give them sufficient time for preservation

I shall probably leave here on the 25th inst. — reach home the 28th inst. — Let's have Flora soon. Tell Tr. & P. to send a copy by Mail.

Very respectfully

M. A. Curtis

N Orleans Nov. 10
Sent by mail.
Monday 30th Nov.

Prof. A. Gray

Cambridge

Mass.

Hillsborough, N.C. Dec: 8/46.

My Dear Sir.

Here is a Plantago from St. John's Berkley, S. Car:, found in rich river bottoms, which I have just come across in a collection sent me by Rev: C. Wallace. I cannot decide about it; so I send it to you to see what you make of it.

I believe I have ascertained what that thing is, sent in my last letter (from Wilmington,) but I shall be glad of your opinion. You had better look pretty sharp.

Reached home on the third inst: — heaps of plants to attend to — from Texas & Missouri by Engelmann, Florida & Key West by Chapman — from S. Car, Wilmington, & the Co^{ty}.

I found several Fungi at Wilm: never collected by Schweinitz. Two of them, however, had been found by Bosc, & named by him in Berlin Mag. — Wonder if I could get those papers of Bosc!

I find by letter from Agent at Petersburg, that my Boxes of Plants were shipped there on the 23^{d} Nov: — I am therefore fearful the vessel was in the gale of the 26th, & that I shall hear no more of them. Sch^{r} Ann, Hopkins Master, was the vessel. I should deeply regret the loss of those parcels — many & good — especially of the Box of Fungi for Berkeley. They ought to have left Petersburg long before that date.

Truly yours

M. A. Curtis

P. S. I send a bit of the real Baccharis sessiliflora.

Prof: A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Hillsborough N.C.

Dear Sir,

Your 'Chloris Bor: Am:' is received, & I am delighted with it. I had no idea you were going to get up a thing of such style & elegance. I had looked only for a few loose sheets from the Journ. Amer. Acad. I could not have had the face to ask for this. Those plates are fine. The Gaillardia is splendid. Just look of that right-hand blossom. The calyx looks as though you could take it from the paper. Yet I would venture to ask, if your painter has but one shade of green among his colors. The foliage of every species is very nearly of the same hue, & yet there is no small difference between the true colors of Baksia & Thermopsis Carolin; as there is between the latter & T. mollis.

I have all these plants except Schweinitzia, & surely I ought to find that here. I mean to look for it carefully next Spring among the little mountains which now face me through my window. I should be delighted to find it.

I marked a few places as I read your paper, which I thought I would say a word upon, & which will cost you but little to read. Your "sylvis montanis" may perhaps note the habitat of T. Caroliniana well enough — but I never saw it except on the rich level lands bordering streams. The spike you might stretch to 12 inches, & no harm done.

Is not T. fraxinif: noticed by Benth. in Lond. Journ? You do not quote him.

T. mollis does generally bear more than one raceme. It is a very branching, bushy plant, often 3 ft. high, bearing two or more racemes. — Three or four

years ago, I found it 6 miles north of Raleigh, which gives a locality a little more eastward than Hillsborough. — The fruit of this species is much infested with an insect like that which attacks the Pea, but with more deadly effect. The pods rarely mature, & are misshapen, short, & sometimes turgid. Until I found the species here, I never saw a well formed legume, & they are rare at best. —— The fibe of this plant is the toughest vegetable fibe I know of. I have many a time tried to sever the dead stems by pulling, & though I have strong hands, have rarely succeeded. It is tremendously tough, but whether it would rot well, or whether branching plants like this would furnish a sufficient length of staple, is more than I know.

Gaylussacia ursina ripens fruit earlier than September but hangs on till late.

The "Swamp Apples" of Azalea are the work of insects, as you can easily satisfy yourself, if you will collect them in full maturity. I defy you to open one at that season which has not a good stout worm in the centre. Why, I have seen fellows set down to a basket of these things, always breaking them open, knocking out the maggot, & then devouring the apple. It is a regular gall: The same thing is common, not only in Vaccinium but in Andromeda — very common in A. Mariana, & in some of the latter I have found the larva imbedded. I have no doubt about its originating from the puncture of insects.

That old fellow Kin will be the death of me. I have had many a laugh before over his English — but the sudden shock of his Krien Preyer was a little ahead of all the preceding, & beats Sheiger Walli all hollow. But why didn't you italicise Poxifolia? Can't you bring in his Kandoghi some time? Phonography would get its death blow from a few such illustrations. Indeed, may we not consider Matthew Kin its real inventor?

I thought those plates of Thermopsis & Gaylussacia, sent some time ago, were intended for the Illustrations. Are the latter to be in the same or a similar style? It would make a splendid Book. I thought a Vol. would have been out before this. But I can wait a while for that. The Flora I cannot wait for. When shall we have a Number?

I was a good deal worried lately, lest my many & valuable parcels of plants had been lost. But a late letter from Wiley & Putnam mentions the shipping to London my case of Fungi for Berkeley, & I suppose all have got safely to N. York. You have probably got those to your case before this. I want your opinion on some unnamed ones in the parcel for you. Remember, the Passiflora fruit was put in the paper box directed to Dr. Gould. Command me in that way, as often as you choose. I am always ready to do what I can.

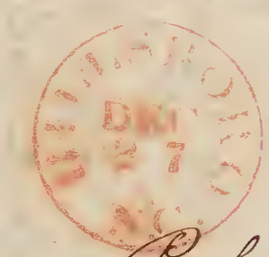
How our species of Carex are multiplying! I hear continually of new species, & now & then receive one. Will three Vols: contain the N. A. Flora? I suspect the Filices will be at the end of the IV th. But I don't care — so it doesn't linger as it has done of late. Come, give us two Nos a year, & I'll bother you no more about it. Texas, Key West, California, Oregon, & the county explored by Fremont, will add vastly to the material you anticipated when you commenced the Flora. And not a little unexpected matter has been added from the U. S. proper. But go ahead. I welcome every discovery. I only wish I could share in a tithe thereof.

Dear me! How I do rattle on, when I begin a letter. I wonder if you read my letters through.

But I stop here.

Truly yours

M. A. Curtis



Prof: A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Hillsborough Jan. 15. 1847

My Dear Sir,

Yours of the 6th is welcome & agreeable. I beg you to understand, that I do not deem my letters of sufficient value, or myself of sufficient consequence, to require a regular or punctual reply. I am always glad to hear from you, & prize your letters very highly. If mine have not bored you, I am rejoiced. I have had some misgivings about writing so much. It is a pleasure to me now & then to let off a little steam; & I like to let it off just as the pressure urges it, & without form or ceremony. In yielding to such urgency, I am glad to find in your case that no harm is done.

In reading the sheet enclosed in your last, I was for some time in a wonder how you could repeat old thoughts in such sameness of words & similar consecutiveness of ideas. It became too hard for belief, & I bethought me to look at the date, when from that & an endorsement of my own, I discovered the mystery. I had forgotten its return to you.

Schweinitzia is a choice present. I hope I shall be able to repay in species, as well as in kind.

Plantago maritima does not grow on our coast, as I know of. Nor have I ever met with P. pusilla at the South. P. intermpta I have but a single specimen, collected near Wilmington. The root is wanting. I do not know whether it be (1), (2), or 4. Ravenel can probably help you to specimens.

We have a narrow leaved Statice on our coast, which is the "Statice Limonium?" of my Wilm. Catalogue. I never saw it, but at the locality there indicated, which is ten or eleven miles S.E. of W. Unfortunately, I have preserved no specimens of it.

The broad-leaved form I had not then seen at the South. I have since found it at Beaufort. I enclose a fragment from S. Carolina, by which you can answer your own question in the most satisfactory manner. My Herb: contains but a single spec: of Orobanche Amer. collected near Charleston. I enclose two or three capsules. It grows in N. Car: also.

Utricularia personata I have long taken for U. cornuta. It is however not so stout here as at the North, as far as my observation goes. Le Conte knows too much. — U. longirostris is a doubtful affair to me. What is so called in my catalogue is a rare thing with me. I know next to nothing of this Genus — never studied it — am anxious for the Flora to help me arrange the mass on hand.

You are right about that thing in my letter of Nov: last. When I sent it, I had not examined it. Since my return, I had pretty well satisfied myself that it is U. gibba, though I never found that species at W. before. I have it from S. Car, I believe.

That is curious about Plantago Kamschatica — found in Creek bottoms of L. Carolina. I am indebted for it to Rev: C. Wallace of St. John's, Berkeley. I divided my specimen with you, which is not quite mature. The largest capsules on my spec: but little exceed the calyx.

I will confer with Berkeley about Bosc's papers on Fungi, before I trouble you about the matter. — I have rec'd some papers from you, from Sill. Journ — being Bibliographical notices, & the Engelmann — Braun articles. I am always glad of these things. You did right to score Brown's Forest Trees. His first attempt escaped all notice, I believe, — but I had occasionally thought of giving him a few words, as he much needed them. His new publication is more imposing & ambitious.

A late examination of some Genera in my Herb: has furnished some materials for remark & enquiry. — And 1st I have from S.C. what I take for Ptelea trifoliata β mollis. My Wilmington plant, though quite young, is apparently the same thing. Have you a full suite of specimens of each form, so as to satisfy yourself they are not distinct species.

2nd — In S.C. & N.C. a common form of Petalostemon coryphosum is found, which is not described in the Flora. Folioles 5-7 pair, often emarginate, narrowly oblong linear. I can send a specimen, if you want it.

3d. Do you know anything of Solanum melanocerasum, Willd? I find in London's Encyc: of Plants, such a species mentioned, & from Virginia. The description is too short; but will, so far, apply well enough to a plant in my Herb. which has long troubled me. It is allied to S. nigrum, but stouter, of a paler hue, somewhat pubescent, fruit much larger &c. I got it on our sandy sea-island of Portsmouth (south side of Beaufort Inlet), but unfortunately have but a single specimen. If you have no plant corresponding with this, I must send it to you before you publish the Solanaceae. Let me know about this in season.

I want you to work up the Lobeliaceae in good style. I lately attempted my Lobeliae by D.C. Prod:, & I am worse off in that Genus now than I was before. . . . . If you are in easy reach of "Swamp Apples" next summer, pray observe them up to the latest stage. I believe I have never eaten one since I was taught their living mystery, and saw the worms rolled out of them; though previously I had borne my share in their consumption. I remember being greatly annoyed at the thought of having eaten so many maggots.

Jan: 16. Your New Gen: & Spec: from Texas, arrived this morning. Thank you for this. The end of discovery is in the far future — plenty of work for you, though your years attain five score.

I do not think I shall bring myself to write to Lakes, if he does not approach me so far as to acknowledge the plants I have sent. I am not fond of the cold distance of royalty: A man so far up in the air — down in the mud — or over the sea — that he cannot be spoken with, will not do for me. I have already made about as much approach — all under your direction — as I can well compass. A mere nod of recognition would induce me to take a few more steps, — but probably not a step without it.

Very truly yours —

M. A. Curtis

P.S. — you make no allusion to the Baccharis I sent you. Have you any new light on it since you wrote the Flora? B. halimif: & & glomerul: can be distinguished as far as you can see them — the former making a sort of fastigiate panicle at the summit of the branches — the latter having scattered, distant, straggling, flower branches, (like the small one I sent) all over the plant, & making no show at all. The former is showy in fruit.

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Flora

Society Hill, S. Car: May 27/47.

2

June 16.

My Dear Sir,

Do you ask, — "What in the world are you doing away off there?" — I reply, that I am exercising my vocation here, & to rather more personal advantage than at Hillsborough, where removals & general poverty had left me well nigh without support. Yet I took leave of my old Parish, much loved & loving much, with great sorrow of heart. I hated much also to leave old N. Carolina, where I had so long labored in my calling, & had so zealously explored its floral treasures. But it had to be: — there was no election for me.

If your Maps will not show you Society Hill, just look for Cheraw far up the Pedee, then run your eye some 15 miles down the river & you will ascertain my whereabouts. I arrived here the 1st of May — have got pretty well settled in my new home — & have explored a little in the neighboring woods & waters — found many new Fungi — one or two undescribed I think — & a new Baptisia — I'll be switched if I haven't — yellow fl.d, long spiked, intermediate between B. alba & Leconteï — not dried yet — you will hear more of it, when I have taken another & better look at the thing.

The Fungi are accumulating rapidly — I am as fond of them as I have ever been of any class of plants — my interest in them is likely to absorb that for all others. I have had returns from Berkeley on my envoi — some 30 — 40 nov. spec. — he is great at these things truly.

I have found more than 100 species in N. Car: which Schweinitz knew nothing of as inhabitants of that State – & some 50–60 that he knew nothing at all of – some genera which he knew not. – I tell you what, Sir, the Fungi must have attention – more laborers must be brought into the field. If you can start any body in this line, turn them over to me. Ravenel is the only co-laborer. Olney promises to collect in R. Island. – And look here! Whenever you come upon any Fungi in the leaves, stems, &c. of the thousands of plants you are overhauling, why not slay by a few specimens for me. Engelman sent me a leaf of Gonolobus from Texas covered with a beautiful species. If you come across anything, pray save it for me.

I was to-day looking over some plants from Ravenel & found a beautiful Cyperus – with the look of C. flavicomus, but quite distinct, belonging to another section. I enclose a specimen for your opinion. As I cannot find it described anywhere, I call it C. Ravenelii.

Plantago heterophylla is abundant under my window in my front yard. – Silphium pumilum – I forget your new genus for it just now – is abundant about here. It extends somewhat into N. Car: as I found on my journey hither. Baptisia alba, Sarracenia rubra, Astragalus glaber, Cirsium repandum, Asphar sagittaefol:, Lysena flav:, are among the plants I have noticed here. This is a thoroughly sandy country, though pretty near the transition line from the tertiary region. – Shall I get any thing for you.

I tried to get fruit of Bignonia capreolata for you, but I found the pods all empty. Do you still want them, & can you wait till new fruit comes?

I have several times received sheets of a Northern Flora, of which Prospectus, title page, or advertisement, have never reached me. I looked rather askance at the first sheets, thinking the work to be the effort of some charlatan, but as I looked into the thing, I began to see it was no dunce work – smacked mightily of the master – & had evidently the impress of Gray's hand. But as I began to reach this conclusion, I could but exclaim – "What on earth will Gray be at next?" – Here are Silliman, North American Review, pretty regularly supplied, Chloris in progress, Illustrations of Genera in hand, a N. A. Flora advancing, to say nothing of Academical Lectures, – & yet they are not enough – must be helped out by means of a Manual of Northern Botany!"

Have you ever attempted to get another copy of the Leipsic Transactions? Let me know, & if not, I will get Wiley & Putnam to procure a copy. Berkely says it is not difficult to be obtained. I should like to keep the copy I have, which is bound up with blank leaves for notes.

Pray what is the cause of your long silence? I had hoped to hear from you before I left N. C. Too many irons in the fire, eh? – How does Flora come on? – Shall we have a number soon? – Let us know what you are doing – & be assured I am always glad to hear from you.

Very respectfully

M. A. Curtis

10.

Prof: A. Gray

Cambridge

Mass.

Society Hill, S. Car: June 24/47.

Dear Sir,

I am glad to hear from you again, & to find that you are making progress, though it be in so many directions. But your paths seem all to be flowery, not excluding that of matrimony — May they ever breathe the fragrance of — I was going to say Violets & Roses, but just then the fresh odor, richer than the strawberry, saluted my olfactories from a bouquet in my button-hole of — Acacia Julibrissin!

Before I forget it — Did you receive a little parcel from me last March? I sent one to Wiley & Putnam.

I wish you luck in your Northern Manual — It is a desirable thing — will help put down quackery which has long had full sweep. Send me the sheets on Carex, when they are out, will you? This reminds me of Carex, poor fellow. I saw in a paper to day a notice of his being drowned.

Of your list of Desiderata, I can furnish only Rhynchosia, Centrosema, & Schrankia, these being all that I have seen here. These shall be attended to. But I cannot send them till Fall, our river navigation being closed till then. Perhaps I shall come across Passiflora lutea. — — — — As to notes on Physalis — whew! I had rather annotate anything else. I have sometimes thought that all our species — even my P. maritima (which is not P. pubescens, Pursh,) would have to be united in one.

however, if anything occurs, you shall have the benefit of it.

A young lady here sent me my Asclepias acerotoides two or three weeks ago, gathered a couple of miles off. This I was delighted to see, & was in hope now of getting the follicles. But she has gone North, & I have been unsuccessful in finding the thing. I find Lysimachia Hebecarpa, & Carex subulata near here, & plenty of Galactia Speciosa Floridana & Galactia sericiflora. Macbride thought this section the finest botanical region he knew of.

Do you correspond with Leveillé? If so, inform him that I will exchange with him. I have been thinking some time, that another string to my bow is desirable. But I must hear from him before I send anything.

Your papers on Fungi I shall be glad to see.

I have got Olney at the business, — he has sent me seven species. Ravenel is constantly sending, & is collecting vigorously. If nothing else is accomplished, I will have a good collection in a few years.

I lately got a sight of Darby's Botany. Why, it is hardly anything but Elliott's work reduced to the Nat: Syst. — I see that, at the end, he has got Plantago heterophylla under the name of P. pusilla.

I want Carex sychnocephala:— can you & Carey send me a specimen? —— You say nothing about the Cyperus I sent you. Did you know it? Can you & Carey find time to give it a look, & tell me your opinion?

The new Baptisia? — Well, you shall have a specimen some time. Unluckily it is rare — & I have but one flowering specimen — several in fruit. It is a good species. I saw it lay between B. alba & Leconteii, — that was guess work. It is between B. alba & tinctoria, & is just what might be expected of a cross between them. But this could hardly be, for those two species do not flower together. It resembles B. alba in its long spikes & petiolate leaves — B. tinctoria in its yellow flowers & striped fruit. It does not turn black in drying, & is out of flower when B. tinctoria comes in. I call it B. Serenae, after the young lady above mentioned, Miss Serena Williams of this ilk. I now recollect that in N. Carolina I have several times been arrested by a Baptisia, which seemed to be different from B. tinctoria; but probably without flowers or fruit, & so gave it the go-by. It has the branching habit of that species, & when out of flower might easily be passed over for it. If I find any more, & fruit remains, I will try to get seeds for you. I enclose some fragments.

I do not know about going to Flat Rock — that is 30 miles from Camden (in some direction) & I am 50 miles from Camden. I should like to go — but I doubt if I do. If I owned a horse, I would.

Will flowers from the Herbarium answer your purpose? If so, I can send ~~Daubentonia~~ Glottidium Erythina, & nearly all your list, I reckon. But, to be sure, you have these in your own Herbarium.

I have been long expecting to hear from Carey, & to recieve a list of his Desiderata. I desire, as far as in me lies, to make up his loss, & can doubtless furnish a good deal more than I have yet done — not a little, probably, from my Herbarium. Kind regards to him.

Ask Harris if he knows what Red Bugs are. They are a terrible nuisance at the South, & make me half frantic sometimes. The creatures are barely perceptible to

the naked eye, & your first knowledge is from the ten thousand bites all over your body, blotching it like the measles, & setting the whole surface on fire. These, with millions of Ticks, Musquitoes, Gnats, Yellow Flies, & Gauze wing Flies, render Botanizing here anything but agreeable. I hear for the first time here of the Benchuca, which bites terribly; but luckily it is rare.

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

I have three or four Boletophagi (?) pinned up in my room, lately got from a Polyporus, which I will send to Harris, if he wants them.

Joy be with you & yours

Respectfully

M. A. Curtis

Society Hill, S. C. Sept: 16th. /47.

My Dear Sir,

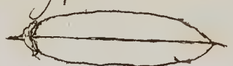
Yours of the 8th has arriv. — sorry you are still pushed — hoped you had finished the Manual before this. I am anxious to see it in its entirety — shall deem a copy indispensable. But how I do long for a complete N. A. Flora! When will it be done.

Sorry to lose my Cyperus Ravenellii; but am glad to know what it is. The style of its inflorescence alone would separate it from C. flavicomus.

That Plantago from Wallace I have lately tried by the descrip: tion of P. Kamschatica, & I never should have dreamed of its be— longing to that species.

My Baptisia Serenae has yellow flowers, as yellow as B. tinctoria. You cannot make B. Lecontei out of it — it differs in every point except general habit. I can give you a spec: of B. Lecontei, & will send it if I can think of it. — I have got hold of another Baptisia here that I never met with before — very large & spreading — per: haps B. leucantha, but I found it in fruit, & my specimens of that species have no fruit. The spike was long as my arm. It must be a very showy thing, whatever it be. The seeds differ from those of any species I know in being covered with elevated viscid glands. All the species that I know of have viscid seeds, but in this they are apparently verrucose. I enclose a few for you. Legume much inflated — 1¼ in. long, ¾ in. wide, sutures but little depressed.

I am here reminded of an error of yours in describing the fruit of Baptisia alba as "obovate". It is no such thing in this country

where the woods abound with it. There, on that shelf, is a specimen of mature legumes. the spike 15 in. long, & containing 14 ripe legumes yet, every one of which is oblong, thus  , nat: size, for I drew my pen carefully around it. But what is remarkable & uniform in this species is the depression at the sutures from the base nearly to the summit so that the ~~sides~~ margins of the valves almost meet. The Legumes are thus depressed & channeled. I will put up some for you.

I will gather such fruit of Leguminosae as I find here. Centrosema flowers & fr. I have in spirit already; So Rhynchosia monophylla, & Schrankia flowers. Fruit of Schrankia I have never seen. This plant is all round me, & I allowed a splendid one to grow in my strawberry bed this year on purpose for fine specimens; but not a pod is to be found over the whole country. I have looked for it in former years without succes.

I used to see about Wilmington a species of Solanum, very prickly on stem & leaves; leaves pinnatifid; fruit globose 3/4 in. in diameter, & precisely like a diminutive orange in color & surface. It was there known as Soda-Apple. I find it in the streets here. Flowers are white, spines pale, or yell: white. It must be an exotic. Can it be S. Sodomeum, & Sodom apple, corrupted to Soda-apple? I have no account of this Genus beyond what is given in London's Encyc. I will send you a specimen.

Hunter has found Darbya, & transplanted specimens.

I found 8 miles from here yesterday a beautiful variety of Baldwinia, with a dark purple ~~centre~~ disc. It was just coming into flower, so that I cannot see seeds & receptacle in a good state for making a new species out of it, but I shall try to go again & see if I can make something out of it. I found Pleea there! This is a great country for botanists. Listia pheteophylla! Gelsidiifolia, & tenuifolia Rhynchospora macrostachya & Torreyana, grow here. Fine country too for Fungi. These things now fill my eye pretty much. That thing you sent on leaves of Hornbeam is Erineum fagineum. I did not know before it was found on Ostrya. But n'il impote — Fries says this Genus — very numerous — is not a Fungus, & so excludes it.

I have written to Leveillé through Prof: Decaisne, giving him a chance to help himself & me too.

Has Capt: Wilkes offered you or Torrey any of the plants of the Exploring Expedition to work up? He requested me to take in hand the intertropical plants, which of course I refused as utterly incompetent, & turned him over to you. At the same time I took the liberty of remarking that there were not three men in the country who could do the work.

It has happened just as I predicted. Rich has lived upon that work as long as he dared, & has now pushed for California. All has to be gone over again.

Ravenel wants a copy of your Chloris. Is it for sale, & where?

Well, you are so anxious about Diamorpha, I will try to strain a point or two next Spring to get to Flat Rock. I am ready to do all I can do for you.

It seems to me that D.C. Prod: hangs back a long time beyond the day of its promise. DeCandolle finds perhaps, like one Gray, that such things halt long in the birth sometimes.

I was greatly amused the past Summer by the challenge of Mr. Richmond to your University. I hardly know whether to wish the thing might come off or not. Some days' amusement might perhaps be gathered from it, but probably not much profit. Richmond is a fluent debater, of quick perception, & rapid and pungent in retort. He is about as familiar with the old Fathers as with his spelling book. Unless therefore you had some able talker to put against him, he would be apt to have the advantage in an oral debate. But his genius is so excentric, the balance wheel of his understanding is so faulty in its mechanism & movement, that I do not know if it would be for the honor of the University, whatever able champions she might furnish, to accept the gage. I am suspicious, the man is cracked.

Very truly yours.

M. A. Curtis.

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Prof. A. Gray

Cambridge

Mass.

Society Hill, S. C. March 7th 1845

Dear Sir,

As you mention two or three things in your letter of the 2nd (rec'd to-day) which I can easily get this Spring, I write at once to know to whom in Boston or N. York I shall direct a Box for you. Spring has indeed come on here — one pretty sure sign is the miserable vermin of the woods beginning to prey upon me. Oh, Sir, you northern fellows know nothing of what we southerners endure in the collection of objects of Nat. Hist.

In the course of a week a fortnight I will gather such roots as I can find for you. Some I shall not now be able to find: the old stems having vanished. The latter will be the case with Baptisia m. sp. I suspect.

I have not seen Schizandra here, nor Cocculus, nor Menispermum, nor Wistaria. Pray why do you mention Dioscorea with these? It is an annual vine, not woody. ——— — Sorry Stipulicida did not answer. I cannot do better, unless I may perchance find some old stems in the woods. I sent the best I could find in my present stock. — — I cannot accept your offer of remuneration. I shall be at very little expense in collecting roots. You may pay freight from Charleston.

I have Berkeley's descriptions of Lea's Fungi, as well as most of the species. All I want is a sight of the specimens figures — particularly of Macrosporium punctiforme, M. pinguedinis, Sporidesmium concinnum, Oidium simile, & Septonema spiloneum. I have all these species, & have made drawings of most of them; but I want Berkley's figures for comparison. Now if you can easily get some one to have them off for me & send them in a letter, you will confer a real favor.

Have you rec'd the Book from Leipsic, containing Schweinitz Synops. Fungorum Carol.? The day my last letter left, I rec'd notice from Wiley & Putnam, that they had got it & sent it to you. They also mentioned S.C. Prod. Vol. XI, which, I suppose, is now on the way to me.

Have the Supplements to Endlicher any important addition to Fungi?

Has Walpers anything of consequence in that line?

A late parcel of specimens from Mr. Wallace contains Solidago Leavenworthii from Cooper River, S.C. Really the Botany of this State is not yet known.

Truly yours

M. A. Curtis.

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Prof: A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Society Hill, S. C. Apr. 12/48.

Dear Sir,

About a week ago I sent to the River a Box of Roots for you which are probably now in Charleston on the Ocean. I hope you may get them soon, for it was rather late to be gathering some of the Plants. It is hot as Summer here, & Flora is beginning to deck herself out in rare beauty. The later flowering species I could seldom find signs of; so you must wait till Fall for the other species I had intended getting for you.

Baldwinia & Plea, which are eight miles off, I have failed to get. I had appointed a time & engaged a man to go with me for them; But Ravenel made me a visit that week - & then my employé could not go - so it failed.

Our Pine Woods are burned over in the Spring, & thus it becomes difficult to find vestiges of plants except in the lower grounds.

I hope some of the species will be satisfactory. Part of them - being well advanced - will perhaps not live. Some perhaps you do not want. Others cannot be made to grow, if I am rightly informed.

There are not many species in the Box - not many being discoverable. I took no list at the time - the following are what I remember - probably all.

Sarracenia flava, & S. rubra.
Carphephorus tomentosus, & C. bellidifolius.
Berlandiera tomentosa. Aster tortifolius.
Lupinus diffusus. Chrysopsis gossypina.
Cirsium repandum.

On the top of the Plants is a chunk of Nyssa root - N. aquatica? I can tell, if you wish, in a few weeks.

Nos 1, 2, 3, grow in the margins of Swamps - 1 & 2 in soil always wet. The Rest in very arid sandy soil.

Dr. Wray once told me that No 7. had never been successfully cultivated. Nos 6, 8, & 9, I put in to fill up, & because they came in my way - you having told me to send anything I could pick up.

On the top is a root of Euphorbia Ipecac. - root six a eight inches long. I set my man to see if he could find the end of one, which I never had succeeded in finding. What I send is nearly entire, though rather short.

I will try to do a better busines for you next Fall. How many roots of each should I send? I have now sent about half a dozen of each.

Your sketches of Berkleian Fungi are very nice & neat - thank you much for them - they agree with my own. Berkely must be wrong about Sporidesmium concinnum. - I am now hard at work - & a long work it is - putting up my species of Fungi, analyzing every one as I go along, & taking sketches of the microscopic parts. - How I wish I had an artist by me!

I received Schwein. Fung. Carol. because I did not wish to deprive you of a copy - & I did not mean to return that which you loaned me, it being bound up conveniently for my own use.

Hoping you will get the Box soon, & find Roots alive & acceptable - I remain

yours

M. A. Curtis

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Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Society Hill, S. Car: May 29/48

My Dear Sir,

I am sorry to hear that my box of live plants has not reached you. I have taken no steps in the premises, believing that if it had not left Charleston before your letter reached me it was of no use to recover it. The plants were mostly so well advanced that I doubt if they would live out the long delay. Besides, I will get the same next Fall, with many others.

My copy of Gen: Illustr. was ordered as soon as I heard of its issue, & is probably on the way. I have no one to give an extra copy to - so, with thanks for your offer, permit me to decline your copy. —— I have informed Ravenel of its publication, & he will doubtless get a copy. —— I am not acquainted with the Charleston Booksellers enough to say who is the best one to entrust copies with. If you want one that will talk big & puff hard, send to Babcock. However, I should suppose that Wiley could put you on the right track.

I thought you was married a year or two ago. Having so understood your expression of having "brought to a crisis a matrimonial engagement", I certainly offered you my congratulations on having become a Benedict. Well, long life & happiness to you & yours — & better luck to you than Greene has had.

Durand proposed to me long ago to work up his Gram. Cyp. & Junc. for him, giving me any duplicates I might want as a remuneration. Expecting thus to get some good things, I accepted & this Spring recieved those portions of his Herbarium. I have just finished Junc. & Cyp. & found some valuable things — though unluckily there are no duplicates to some of them. Such a hotch-potch confusion I never saw — & localities & donors are not half the time given. I saw Juncus dichotomus from "South N. Jersey", which is not in your Flora. It was mixed with J. tenuis. — There was a solitary specimen (J. nudis. Kth?), mixed with J. militaris & some other species, & no locality given — with leaves & stem very rough with minute crowded papillae. Perhaps S. American." ——— I got a specimen of Cyperus Cleavenii. A specimen from Torrey — "C. pallescens — Richardson, Brit. Amer." is C. Torreyi, Tuckerm. Torrey must have made a mistake in the spec. he sent to Hooker. — There is Carex stylosa from Richardson, Brit. Amer. sent by Torrey as "C. anceps". — There is quite a quantity of C. flacca, from Collins' Herb. — I found one spec. of C. Mitchelliana, no ~~ticket~~ locality given — & one of C. aestivalis, marked "C. Darlingtonii", in Schweinitz (?) hand, no locality. Both these last are probably from Schweinitz & gathered in N. Car. — I also found a spec. of Cyperus Schweinitzii, the ticket stating that it was gathered by the "margin of a pond in N. C." — Is not this likely to be a mistake? Scirpus Olneyi (an old spec:- from Collins?) was mixed with S. pungens.

I like your Bot. of N. States. Carex seems to me handsomely elaborated, though I may doubt about two or three things. — Juncus relieves me of some difficulties. Are you certain the same species does not vary in the number of stamens? — Do you know my J. megacephalus, & what have you made of it? I have several of these globular headed forms — seeds tailed & tailed — stam. 3 & 6. — Leaves Terete & flat* (compressed) — which I cannot well determine.

Society Hill S. Car. June 29th /48

My Dear Sir.

Yours is recieved. I am sorry I cannot do better for you than with the enclosed spec: of Clematis cylindrica — hardly sufficient for your purpose, yet all the fruit I have. C. crispa & C. Catesbyana, I never could make out — & I have nothing to represent them in my Herb.

I have written to Ravenel for you — hope he may have specimens.

Should the Box of Roots come to your hands, you may perhaps get a few to live — sorry they were delayed.

Genera not yet recieved, & as Boat communication ceases during Summer, shall not probably get it till Fall. I had a packet from Wiley or Putnam some ten days ago, sent off some time subsequent to the publication — do not know why the Book was kept back.

I had a glimpse of it in Darby's Library at Columbia last week, & thought it fine, first rate. I spent a day with Darby. He has but a small Herbarium — the plants often badly named, & not named at all. He is but little acquainted with species. I had the luck to find a spec: of Aster mirabilis in his collection, & got a fragment. I also got a small spec: of what he considered a new Polygonum, collected in Georgia — It is a close haul upon your Polygonella ericoides, if not the very thing. I have the same (gathered this side of Columbia in a journey made in Nov: 1836,) but without flowers or fruit. I also got small spec: (stam: fl.) of Darbya.

The errata noticed in your Fl. N. States are hardly worth mentioning — but I will hereafter note what I see.

Tuckerman has sent me Synops. Lich. & Lich: Exsicc. — which I did not expect. The Spec. are very pretty. I shall send him what I can.

What a pity you have lost those species of Thermopsis!

Engelmann long ago (May) says he directed a pamphlet to be sent me from Washington upon a collection of plants by Dr. Wis=ligenus (?). What is the reason I do not recieve it? —

Send me the Tendleriana, when completed.

I wish you would "straighten" Thalictrum as well as Clematis. I cannot work the genus by your Flora.

Busy as a bee on Fungi — hardly collect Phanerogams now — & only as they come in my way. — [I think Amorpha glabra will have to be given up — grows here with A. herbacea, & runs into it.] I have more than a hundred new species of Fungi, & apparently several new genera — shall publish most of them, probably, in conjunction with Berkeley, who is a real clever fellow. I shall be safer in partnership than alone, & I wish to move securely.

Truly yours
M. A. Curtis.

P.S. In lately working up a supposed new species of Eleocharis from Sullivan's Island, I unexpectedly found it to be E. albida, Torr. It was sent me by Ravenel. If you have no spec. of this, I will send you a bit. Have you any Cyperus Cleavenii? If not, I will send you a stem, Pray do. — enough to show the thing. I got it from Herb. Durand. If you are already in possession of these, I shall not send the latter.

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Prof: A. Gray

Cambridge

Mass.

Society Hill, S.C. Jan: 5/49.

Dear Sir,

I was truly glad to recieve the favor from you of Schlechtendal's memoir on Aseroe, not only for the value of the paper, but as showing that you had not forgotten me quite. It is a long time since I heard from you — not since March or April, I guess. — What have you been so busy about that you could not have dropped us a line in all that time?

Your favor found me on my back — confined by a rheumatic attack. I am up again, but do not leave the house. I was confined to the house nearly all of December; — to my bed eleven days.

Did you ever get the box of Roots I sent you last Spring? How many were alive, eh? ——— I had intended sending another the past Fall — but in consequence of long drought our River navigation opened so late that I was afraid they would be destroyed on their way by cold. I will make an effort for you the coming Spring, if you desire it.

I shall be very thankful for anything in the Fungus line, that you do not want. If you have pamphlets, or volumes with memoirs, that you wish to preserve, & can loan them to me for a while, I should be very glad to see them. Separate memoirs on a single family or genus are the most valuable works we have, which cannot be had in descriptive

works, & which I know not how or where to get.

My head & hands are now so full of Fungi, that I pay very little attention to Phanerogams. I am taking my leave of the latter in a short article, partly written, for next No. of Silliman, if not too late.* Sickness put a stop to the work. I intend to include a description of the Wallace Plantago, which you called a form of P. Kamschatica. I cannot make it hitch with that species at all. If you have anything to say upon this, I shall be glad to hear from you.

Do you know to whom I am indebted for Dr. Stone's reports of Agassiz' Lectures in the Traveller? I am very grateful to whoever-he-may-be. I am glad you have Agassiz at Cambridge. He is opening a new field to speculation & wonder.

How comes on the Flora, & the Phlois, & the Gen: Illustrata? — The latter I recieved last Fall sometime. It is capital. All honor to Sprague & his coadjutor. # ——— Berkley is greatly pleased with Gen. Illustr.

I wish I had known you were going to quote me under Dionaea. I should have ordered out all that about Audubon. He not only mentioned it as growing in Florida, but on the coast of N. Jersey, "as big as a goose egg". I have now no doubt, although I called his special attention to a specimen in my hands, that he intended Sarracenia purpurea.

I add the following localities to your Northern Flora. I have Fedia dltoria & Asclepias pauperccula from Penn Yan, by Sartwell. — Obione arenaria I collected in 1830 on the beach of Boston harbor in front of House of Industry S. Boston. ——— Is not Euphorbia pilosa, Pursh = E. Darlingtonii?

Truly yours

M. A. Curtis.

* I must postpone it till a future Number.

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Prof: A. Gray

Cambridge

Mass.

Society Hill, S. C.

My Dear Sir,

Your letter reached me on the 12th. I had been long anxious to hear from you. I am sorry to find you had so mournful a cause for silence. The removal of near kindred is the most terrible trial we have to suffer. But I trust you know how in some degree to chasten sorrow by that unwavering faith in God, which trusts His justice & His mercy in the most afflicting dispensations. Hard as they are to endure, they are unquestionably good for us. Indeed without them we are too apt to forget our own mortality & become too much absorbed in mere worldly things. They serve to check the earthly spirit, & quicken the pulse of the new life within. "By these things men live", said the good Hezekiah in his sorrow, "& in all these things is the life of my spirit." So may you find it in your present affliction. I have been sadly taught how to weep with those that weep, & I can offer the assurance of a true & hearty sympathy for your painful loss of a dear Brother. The last two years have reminded me much of what a dying world this is. I have, in that time had many letters of sympathy to write. Among the last was one to Darlington — poor man — who has taken deeply to heart, as he had much reason, the death of his wife. The wife for forty years.

You ask about the conveniences of water-carriage. We have four Steamboats on our River, plying between Charleston & Cheraw. So that is settled. My chief difficulty is in getting the plants, as I have no horse or cart, & borrowing & hiring is no easy matter here. Whatever grows close around me, I will get for you with pleasure, & will try for the Pleea & Baldwinia, which are 6 miles off. You did not say any thing about the Baldwinia I sent you — whether you had ever seen that variety before. It is a beauty. — There were several things I was in hope you would say a word upon — a Physalis, Solanum, Petalostemon corymbosum, var. & Baptisia leucantha? — The latter I shall soon have in my Garden, & then I can see it in flower. I now think that the Physalis angulata is quite distinct from viscosa. ——— Some of the things you want, I can probably get this Spring — others not before Fall. Nous verrons. Specify the woods you want, & I will get them. The Nyssa roots I sent, I find are not the roots of the Big Tupelo, but of the common Gum — or N. aquatica — & that used to be within ¼ mile of your house. — Mention the Vines you wish me to get.

What do you think of Aster Novae-Angliae in the swamps of the Santee? Ravenel sent it to me last Fall.

How am I to understand your expression about Liatris cylindracea — "it lies between L. Boykinii & secunda"? — That it must be referred to one or the other? — or, that it has affinity to each, though distinct? Never having seen L. Boykinii, I was for a while fearful my plant might be a form of it, & I wanted your opinion about it. I think it can hardly be L. secunda. Did it ever occur to you that L. paniculata, Pk. was an abnormal state of L. secunda — being branched only in consequence of injury at the summit? Such is my theory. We are familiar here with that state of the spicate species. I think I could manufacture an L. paniculata for you, & if I think of it next season, will make the experiment.

I have been delayed two days in answering your letter, as I had no ripe fruit of Stipulicida in my Herb: & went to the sand barens to hunt for it, — but without success. Then I had my store of duplicates to run over for it. I send such as I have. You will find ripe capsules, I believe, among them. I hope they may serve you. ——— What do you mean by — "your Aristida stricta is the true one of Mchx. Addscr." That last word puzzles me. The fact is, every body but myself has gone wrong upon that plant since the days of Michx. Elliott's is A. purpurascens — Muhlenberg's is A. spicifor-mis — Pursh's is doubtful, but certainly not the thing — Darlington's is A. gracilis, Ell. — & even old Michx. himself has confounded either A. purpurascens a virgata with it. When once known, this plant cannot be easily mistaken. It is as characteristic of our tertiary region as is Pinus palustris. — — — Xyris brevifolia has "setaceous leaves"? Then I have altogether mistaken it. Is it X. juncea, Bald.? — That is the only Xyris I have ever seen with leaves anything like setaceous. But vid. Michx. & Kth. — ——— Link I had sent for; — small or large it is indispensable. — Have you got the No. of Hooker's Lond: Journ: Bot: containing Berkley's descr. of Lea's Fungi? I want to see the figures, which I do not profess. Can you trust it in the mail for me? (Berkeley has made two mistakes, I am pretty confident.) After copying the figures I will return it. I wish to compare his with my own of the same species. — Have you Corda's works on Fungi? What do they cost. I refer to his Icones Fungorum — & his Introduc-tion a l'etude de la Mycologie. — I am a good deal hampered for want of Books. I am continually finding Genera not mentioned in Tries — & am too poor to buy expensive books. If I only had the means & the leisure of Oakes or Greene, I would do a handsome business among these things. In hope of raising a little I have advertised in Sill. Journ:

(rather have sent an advertisement) to supply packages of American fungi to any who want them. I do not state the price — What ought I to charge? I am afraid however that nobody wants them. — Species are multiplying upon me prodigiously — & I have no need to go half a mile to find them. Forest & swamp & barens are close at hand.

What in the world is delaying D.C. Prod. so long? Vol. XI was promised a year ago. Kunth too seems dilatory. And Tor. & Gray. Fl. N. A. — where!

Wanted Vol II
~~do~~ Cocculus Carolinus.
Ol Menispanum —
Sabiacea —
all Vines —

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

I have written to Greene — hope he may find those two fungi for me — especially Cyclomyces.

Truly yours
M. A. Curtis.

Society Hill, S.C. Apl. 16th '49.

Dear Sir,

Yours of March 26th reached me to day. Letters to & from me have occasionally miscarried; but I do not remember one so long delayed on route as this of yours. — Your advice anent E.T. is about the right thing, I reckon. I have thus far taken no notice of his oddities, though I have been several times very much vexed. I have desired to serve him, & to furnish specimens of Lichens, because I felt enough of national pride to wish to have our species plantarum first published at home. I should have done vastly better, if I had had nothing to do with him. Before I sought acquaintance with Berkeley, I begged Tuckerman to convey a message to Fries with a proposition to send him Fungi; — but he refused point-blank to do it! Subsequently he consented — but never did it. & then opened correspondence direct with Fries. — I am thankful for your offer of conveying packages to him for me. He has not informed me how to direct parcels to him. I will therefore probably trouble you next Fall with one for him. I delay till then, in order to include more matter which is in process of elaboration & publication. I am now very glad that Mr. T. did not convey any message — as I have

thereby been thrown into correspondence with Berkeley, who has all the skill of Fries, & all the promptness & generosity that one can desire – I might perhaps say, all that are possible to man. You will soon begin to see the results of our correspondence in the Lond: Journ: Botany.

I am not a little mortified at being compelled to repeat the story of last Fall about the roots. I have nothing for you this Spring. In order to keep you in good humor with me, I will state that I had set apart two days to the work & had engaged hose & cart. But the first of these days I was called to a funeral – the second was bad weather. The next day, the Boat came along, & has not been able to get up since. The River is low again, like last autumn & part of the Winter. It is now getting too late to collect. I am truly sorry for this, as I desire to furnish you what ever I can. If you can live upon hope, – you may hope for luck next Fall.

Almost all vegetation was killed here last night. Yesterday it snowed steadily for six hours – giving about three inches on a level – the heaviest known here for many years. This morning icicles hung thick from the eaves. The trees, which were all in foliage, to day looked black & are dropping, & in a few days they will be bare as winter. Fruit all killed! My garden was prospering – peas in bloom – strawberries ripening – grapes in full bud for flowering. The two first may survive – the last is thrice dead. The beds where Portulacca has spread, are all blackened with the withered foliage. Locust trees yesterday morning were beautiful with profuse clusters of blossoms – to day all black & drooping. The Elm & Dogwood do not seem affected. Oaks, Hickories &c. are killed through all their growth of this year.

I will get the woods you want, except Olea & Acacia. These are in cultivation, & perhaps not getable. As the flowers & fruit of Styrax, Prunus, & Ulmus, it is too late this year. Of Olea I have fl. now in press.

I requested Ravenel, as soon as I got your last letter to gather specimens of Fraxinus & Carya for you. I will communicate your last desideratum in my next. I have no doubt he will work cheerfully for you. Though a Planter, he is full of zeal in rebus botanicis, & with me has been very communicative & generous.

When you get my Paper in Sill: Journ: – if you see anything in it that needs slashing – why, cut away! I care not. I have had my last words upon those low things that attract the common gaze. I ascend now to more primitive organisms – to darker mysteries – to the life that lives upon death, & which finishes & begins the cycle of vitalism. – [I reckon that'll do as well as some of R. T.'s transcendentalisms in his pamphlet on Lichens.]

Believe me truly yours,

M. A. Curtis.

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Prof: A. Gray

Cambridge

Mass

Society Hill, S. C. May 31/44.

My dear Sir,

I answer yours immediately that you may direct Capt. Wilkes to send me those Fungi at once. They may be directed to John Russell, (Bookseller) King St. Charleston, S. C. They can be sent directly, or through John Wiley, N. York, with an order for despatch. Haste is important, because our River navigation will soon close; — & then I may have to wait for the packet some time. —— Wilkes should have communicated with me directly in this matter. I told him long ago, that I would see to the Fungi, if any were collected; — & he told me he would send them to me when Sullivant returned them. They are now returned to him upon an application lately made by me to Sullivant. — Sullivant says there are not half a hundred species. But few as they may be, I have no idea that I shall be able to elaborate them without foreign aid. Half the species of Fungi described are not yet found in any one Book, but are scattered about in Magazines & Journals over all Europe, to which I have no access. Unless the species, which is not likely, are such as are in my books, I should not like to venture the publication of them, without consultation with Berkeley. And yet it is a pity, that our Expedition should not

be illustrated solely with their ourselves. Well, we shall see.

I thought likely you would come down upon me about the Stolea. But with specimens from so many localities, & in every state from the bud to the mature fruit, I thought myself safe in making the species. I think the total ensemble of differences is enough for a species, unless you can find them occasionally on the common form.

I feel rather scary about Leucon Georgiana. Let me know what you think of it when you see specimens. — About the rest I feel pretty safe.

I should like much to be at the great meeting with you in Aug: next — but I doubt if I can spare the money. I could use enough, but can probably lay it out to more permanent advantage.

I have heard that a few Chionea flowers can be found — but there are none around me. I will try for them. Fruit all killed by the snow & ice on my lot. — No Aesculus flava here.

So Endlicher is gone! — He was a great man, & I am sorry. How many Supplements did he publish?

Yes sir, Berkeley & I are going ahead. I suppose I now have 200 undescribed species including 5 or 6 new Genera. I am in some hurry to publish, as Curtis has settled in Texas & may be gathering up some of them. It is curious how species turn up in opposite parts of the world. — I think Berkeley as keen-eyed as any one I have ever dealt with. I am only afraid he makes too many species. He is something like Engelmann in his rapid perception of differences, & seeing them more distinctly I suppose makes more of them than would others.

Can you read Fries' chirography? I could not make out half his letter to me, — so I packed it off to Bachman who corresponds with Germans & Swedes, & can talk & write German like a native. Well, he has been fuzzling with it more than two months, & with the aid of all the educated Germans in Charleston, he cannot unravel it. He says he never saw the like of it. It is written in Latin indeed, but we cannot make out the words of a large part. I reckon it is three months since I rec.d the letter, & I cannot answer it yet. Is there anybody with you that can transcribe the thing into readable Latin, in case of need?

I find a few very fine & showy specimens of Baptisia Serenae this Spring. Can this be a hybrid between tinctoria & alba? It is exactly what we should expect a hybrid between them would be. But then the tinctoria & alba are never in flower at the same time. My Serenae too keeps to the vicinity of Springs & branches. It is quite handsome, & I must send you some roots. I have had one marked for you since last Spring.

Truly yours

M. A. Curtis.

P.S. I am very desirous of knowing something definite about the state of Schweinitz Fungi, in hope of overhauling them at some time. Whom can I address in Phil.a, who can give the information I want?

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Prof. A. Gray

Cambridge

Mass.

Society Hill, S. Car.

My Dear Sir

Yours of June 8th has been long on hand, but as I had nothing to note, have delayed writing.

I am now, however, disposed to enquire, what has become of Capt: Wilkes' parcel that was to be sent to me so fast? I hear nothing of it. Can you inform me why? — There is no need of any haste in the matter — only if the packet has really been sent & miscarried, it is time to be looking after it. As far as I am concerned, it is of no consequence if it does not reach Charleston before the last of September.

Do as you list with Ptelea mollis — it may go to grafs for what I care. I have got quite above such low subjects. Nevertheless, I should like to hear what you have to say about Quercus Georgiana, when you see it, merely as a matter of small curiosity, you know.

That Epistola Friesiana has not yet been returned to me. I do not know what is the matter with Bachman. He has been in indifferent health for many years, but I hoped his new wife would give new life to him. Should the thing come to hand again, without solution, perhaps I shall enclose it to you.

When I was in Charleston last winter, I begged the Rev: C. Wallace

to notice the Gen: Illustr. in the Southern Quarterly, which I perceive he has done in the last Number, in three or four pages. He says a good word for you - & if you can hunt up the Number it will not take you long to read your praise, & as you are used to this, you need not fear that your modest blushes will put you in a fever, though you should read it in the dog-days.

I have written to Darlington about the Schweinitzian Fungi, & Dr. Bridges replies that he can find no duplicates. I have written now to Dr. B. to make another search - for it is most certain that Schweinitz left duplicates. Sullivant says he saw 8 or 10 bushels of Fungi in the Academy cellar in boxes, all done up in little papers. Surely, that cannot be the Herbarium! It will be of great advantage to me to get specimens of these, as it is not easy to identify many of Schweinitz species from his descriptions.

There is no possible chance for fruit of Prunus Chicasa this year. Not a Plum is left by the frost in this region, that I can find. And your application was made too late for the flowers. Of leaves there are bushels to be had. - I can send you a tolerable dried specimen in flower. - Will you have it by letter? What Engelmann has sent me from Missouri as P. Chicasa, appears a very different thing. In the Carolinas &c. nobody ever mistakes this for any other species, as it is wild all over the county, sometimes cultivated, & most of the varieties have very fine fruit. I have them on my lot.

I should have liked well to be at Cambridge this month, but that cannot be. I wish you all sorts of a pleasant time without me.

What think you of a Bill from John Wiley for Mougeot & Nestler's Stirpes Cryptogamae &c. 12 Fascicles, amounting to $139,25? — I had written to Berkeley about it beforehand, who informed me that it would probably cost me in Carolina Fifteen Pounds, & seemed to think that a pretty heavy expense. Now here it is over £30. - more than double what it had expected. — Can you give me any hints of the probable cause of this. I have made application to Wiley for items of charges — he says he will write to London about it. There it stands.

Can you tell me, whether such things ought to pay duty. - I have thought it not unlikely, that duty was paid in England, & here also. But any man ought to know better than to import a heavy article to order in such a way as that. - Unless I am satisfied with his explanations, when made, I shall drop J. Wiley. I find too that he is negligent. I ordered the above in Feb. 1848. In Feb. 1849, I wrote to know why it was not forthcoming, & lo, they had never sent for it, but would send right off - very sorry - didint know how it happened, & all that.

Can you recommend any Importer, who is prompt & honest?

E. T. has gone to Europe, I suppose. I hope he will return with lots of his cautious wisdom.

Truly yours
M. A. Curtis.

Prof. A. Gray,

Cambridge

Mass.

Society Hill, S.C. Sept. 12/49.

My Dear Sir,

Not knowing how soon you may have use for answers to some queries in your letter of the 29th ult, I write at once.

As to Prunus Chicasa being indigenous in Carolina, I can only say, that its behavior is that of an introduced plant. I have never seen it anywhere in the wild woods, - but it is found in old fields, & along fences, wherever there is or has been a settlement. It is as common as Mullein with you - & like that keeps the society of mass as far as I have seen. Is it known, where the thing can be found in situ. If so, then I should say introduced here. If not, then it is as likely to be native here as any where in the county.

The largest specimen of Aesculus Pavia I have ever seen was near Wilmington, N.C. - & was about 20 ft. high - & say 4-5 in. diameter. I recollect being struck with its size at the time, for generally I had found it about 4 - 8 ft. high. The large one was in woods of rich soil near the margin of a swamp. I do not recollect of ever seeing it elsewhere over 10 ft. high.

I am glad Quercus Georgiana looks new to you, for that shows that my view of differences was not all imagination. Still, if it had been a big tree, I should have been slow to separate it from Q. palustris.

Are you aware that the Oaks are much subject to hybridizing? Q. heterophylla & Leana you have thrown out on that ground,

but I have been for many years pestered with forms, which I cannot do anything with. While living in Raleigh I made a large collection, but my Mss to foliage & fruit having got deranged, they are valueless, & I believe thrown away. L. nigra was apparently a common cross with others. Last year, Ravenel suggested this subject to me, as he was much puzzled with the various forms. I recommended to him to make a study of them. — Last week, a letter from Engelmann broaches the same subject. He thinks he finds crossed,

L. coccinea & L. nigra.
L. imbricaria & do.
L. do. & L. palustris.

In 1839 I sent you or Dr. Torrey a specimen from Pigeon River N.C. labelled L. imbricaria, var: — which may be a cross — looking, if I remember right, much like L. Leana.

You can have these hints for nothing. I shall make no further investigations in the premises. Should you like investigations to be made, I have no doubt that Ravenel will attend to it for you.

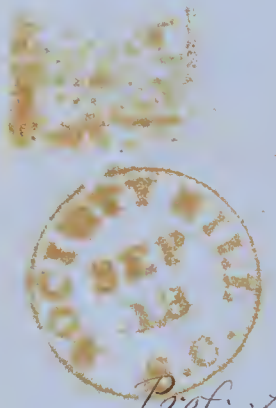
Glad you had a "fine time" at Scientific meeting. I have seen no report of proceedings — but am informed that I had the honor of membership conferred upon me. I cannot record my honor, as I do not know the name of the Association.

Gen: Illustr. II. I have not seen — shall get it by & by, when opportunity offers. I cannot at present order from J. Wiley, & I have not yet pitched upon a substitute.

I have had communication with Dr. Bridges — & learn that duplicates of Schweinitz Fungi are not to be had. Surely he must have left some. What can have become of them! I would give a pretty sum for a good collection of them.

Some two years ago, young Cox of Phil.a returning from Lima, left a memory his relations in Camden, S.C. a large kind of Bean, wh. he said was preferred to the Lima bean in S. America. A few were planted in this place & made a most magnificent climber — running 50-60 ft. I suppose. Unluckily, the season was too short for maturing it. I made it to be a Canavalia ensiformis, DC. — I regretted the failure exceedingly, as I desired to possess for ornament, & also for food. But last Fall, on a visit some miles below this, I found some ripe legumes on a table wh. I instantly recognized for the same things, & learned from the family that it had been cultivated by the last generation of them. It was with them of a bushy habit — 4-6 ft. high. They had a notion the thing was poisonous, & never ate it. I have cultivated it this year. It runs somewhat with me — say 6-10 ft. It is the very same thing with the Cox species. I have eaten it several times, but do not like it as well as the Lima bean, yet it is evidently growing in my esteem. Some of the pods are more than a foot long — the beans (about 15) large & beautiful. Do you want a specimen?

Truly yours
M. A. Curtis.



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Prof: A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

from [illegible] my Botanical Society-Hillianum.
Azalia spinosa. Magnolia glauca. Liriodendron. Sassafras.
Nyssa aquatica, & tomentosa? — Crataegus — several species.
Pyrus angustifolia. Prunus Chicasa, & americana.
Acacia Julibrissin (introd.) Gleditschia triacanth. Cercis?
Ulmus americana & alata. Celtis occident. Morus rubra.
Quercus phellos?, aquatica, nigra, tinctoria, rubra?, Catesbaei,
falcata, obtusiloba. Michauxii, alba, cinerea, laurifolia.
Castanea pumila. Fagus sylv. Betula nigra. Salix — ?
Populus angulata & heterophylla. Platanus. Liquidambar.
Juglans nigra. Carya tomentosa, & others?
Acer rubrum, saccharinum? Melia. Rhus copallina.
Ilex opaca, primoides. Symplocos. Oxydendron. Cyrilla.
Vaccinium arboreum. Diospyros. Olea americana (cult.)
Catalpa. Fraxinus — ?

Ravenel can send a fine set of Hickories. He has sent me the real C. myristicaeformis.*

Ask him to do it. Truly yours

Do send me seed of Sarracenia Catesbaei.

M. A. Curtis.

* He also sent me a curious hybrid between C. olivaeformis & aquatica? — the nuts still marked with the curious Fungus (Sothidea Missouriensis) which is found on all Pecan nuts.

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Prof: A. Gray

Cambridge

Mass.

Society Hill, S. Car: Dec.

(Answ. Feb. 2)

My Dear Sir,

I lately enclosed some things for you — dried specimens, fruits, & flowers in spirits — in a Box sent to Olney of Providence. It is no great feast for you, but may afford a pleasant morsel or two for a leisurely botanical lunch. I hope the things may reach you safely. I wish you to notice the specimens of our Southern cork in the stoppers to the vials. They are made of the root of Nyssa — N. aquatica I believe. These roots, especially of the big Tupelo, are much used at the South for such purposes, for floats to seines &c. I could not get cork here, & so I had to send my man to the swamp for this.

Look here. I want to get Link's Fungi, & I do not know how to order them. They are somehow, I believe, a part of Willdenow's work — the title to which I cannot give — nor do I want Willdenow. Can I get Link by himself? — What must I order? Where can it be had? Let me know soon, for I find there is no dealing with Fungi without Link, & I want his help as soon as I can get it.

Another thing. In the Hooker's Journal of Botany, I find that Berkeley describes a Leotia & Cyclomyces collected by Greene at Tewkesbury. Pray ask Greene to ~~get~~ send me specimens, especially of the latter. I will pay him what he asks. I want them prodigiously.

The Fungi are coming on bravely. Scarcely two years since I commenced upon them & have about 1500 species. Can you not start some of those Yankee fellows to collect for me – I will pay in Phanerogams or Cryptogams as they like.

What has become of Sakes? Is he ever going to acknowledge that parcel of plants I sent him? – I believe I shall hold you responsible for payment. I never should have sent them unbidden, but at your suggestion. If he does not want them, I will very cheerfully receive them back. Has he done anything in Mycology yet? Spur him on.

How do you come on in your multifarious works? Manual most done? Illustrations nearly ready? Flora in the press? – Eh? – Should like to see something.

And pray what is Sullivant about? – have'nt heard from him for many a long month.

I wish you all sorts of honor pleasure & profit in your many labors.

Very respectfully
M. A. Curtis.

P.S. I have got a new Rhynchospora (R. Ravenelii) from Ravenel – Setae 0. Nut smooth – Stam: 1. Heads in small loose corymbs.

There is another species without bristles undescribed (R. Chapmanii, mihi, mss) common at the South – looks a little like R. alba – which I have had for 15 yrs. I never knew why you & Torrey overlooked it, as I had sent specimens to Torrey. Do you know it? I have it from N.C., S.C., & Florida.

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Prof. A. Gray

Cambridge

Mass.

Society Hill, S.C. March 15th 1850.

My Dear Sir,

What are you about, that I have not heard a word from you for such a long-long time? — You are always busy, I believe — & I know not how you find time to do so much work, — but really I must claim an occasional half hour from you, just to know how you are coming on in your labors, if for nothing else.

After all, I should not have intruded upon you just at present, only I want to know something more definite than the hint ("inter nos") long since uttered, about your going to Europe. Are you going — & soon? — The Ex. Ex. things I have already sent — i.e. a part — but I am now putting up a big parcel for Fries, & perhaps would find it safest to send it under your escort. I am a year behind already — owing to the detention of Fries Letter by Bachman until last month, when I had to decipher it myself after all — & shall not wait for you beyond April or May. — Anyhow, give me the proper direction, by which I can send a box to Fries. His own is not quite particular enough.

I was in Charleston last month, & spent two or three hours over the Caries in Herb. Ell. at the request of Booth. — Pah! what a mess! — not worth a snap of the finger. But I will give

you the result, if you want it.

Bachman is just out with a book (300 pp.) on the Unity of the Human Race. It is ably done, & I hope you will see it. That subject is getting to be one of absorbing interest, & I am sorry to hear that Agassiz is on the plurality side. At least, Gibbes says he is.

I sent two or three plants to you the past winter through Carey, I hope you got them, though they are not worth acknowledging. Nothing new turns up here — so I sent those to keep you in mind of me, as I happened to be sending to Carey.

I got Gen. Illust. II. in Charleston — a splendid work. If that work is in your own hands, & not the Booksellers, I would make arrangements, & probably could persuade others, to take copies from yourself instead of giving the profits to the Trade. Let me know.

I spent a few days with Ravenel last month. He showed me trees of his Pinus glabra, Walt. — Surely it must be the thing, & very different from P. mitis. The trunk has none of the scaly bark, even at the base, which so much characterizes the Genus, but looks more like a Maple at first sight. I never met with the tree anywhere else.

Very respectfully

M. A. Curtis

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Prof. A. Gray.
Cambridge
Mass.

Society Hill, S. Car. May 14th 1850.

My Dear Sir,

I have sent off my Box for Fries. It is sent to N. York, directed to you, care of G. P. Putnam. You will recognize my hand, I think – but I may as well say it is a Poplar (Liriodendron) Box, directed as above, & "from M. A. C." written on the cover.

I have now to say, if it should be too late, or if it will give you more trouble than you are willing to endure – just inform Mr. Putnam, & I will then order a new direction.

If you take it with you, I will guarantee that it contains no contraband articles, unless a couple of sheets of Sill. Journal, containing my Fungus articles, belong to that category. All the rest of the contents are plants & nothing else. This will secure it against unnecessary overhauling at the Custom House. I wish you to keep record of all expense you may be at with the thing. From England to Sweden let Fries bear the expense.

I want the collection, which is valuable, to reach Fries as soon as possible, as he is in a hurry for them, & I have already been delayed a twelvemonth.

While in Europe, if you come across any savans skilful in Fungi — I want none but the skilful — who are disposed to exchange with me, you may promise for me all that is in my power. I can furnish a good deal of interesting matter. Many of these European Botanists are unwilling apparently to make exchanges, & even to acknowledge a gift. Young Hooker sent to the continent some sixteen sets of his Antarctic Plants, but not over half a dozen were ever acknowledged. Now, I will not work for the mere honor of a great man's accepting my labors. What I want is Fungi & Lichenes, — & I will return an equivalent in kind, or in any orders of Plants except Algae. — I am ready, too, to receive even the common European species, while I will return only those which are exclusively American. Any thing you can get for me in this line will be a great favor. And I should like to have any persons you can enlist for me send me specimens as soon as possible. ~~Fungi~~, Fungi, Klotzsch, Montaigne, Leveillé, &c. &c. would perhaps favorably receive a proposition of the kind.

I have now to wish you a prosperous voyage, & a successful issue to your undertaking. The God of providence & grace have you in his merciful & holy keeping.

Believe me

very cordially yours

M. A. Curtis.

Society Hill, S. C. March 19th/51.

My Dear Sir,

Your ltr of the 11th inst is received. — As you contemplate leaving for Europe by the 1st of June, which cannot be over a month later than I can despatch my box to Fries; — & as being in your hands would give it some better chances of safety & despatch, I rather think I must trouble you with it. The collection will be one of much value, & I therefore desire that it may go safely. I now think I will send it to Putnam early in May, subject to your direction. And if it should prove to be inconvenient for you to take charge of it — just let me know in the mean time, & I will get Putnam to ship it direct to Sweden.

I am glad to find that your Text Book is so well appreciated, & that another edition is now called for. I hope it will eat out some of the reputation of the Troy & Hartford stocks.

I have already written to Booth, giving a list of Elliott's Carices in Herb. — Your suggestion to write out full descriptions of the specimens, does not strike me as at all necessary — nor indeed could I now do that. My only object was to identify the species, and as I am familiar with most of them, I have got a very nearly accurate view of the whole concern. Besides, the names on the tickets were never altered by Elliott, to adapt them to the Flora. Out of some 65 species in the Herb; 46 are from Michl. Schwein. Collins &c.

among the oddities are "Carex digitalis" (from Torrey) = C. debilis, Michx.
"C. festucacea" (from Schweinitz) = C. bromoides.
"C. varia". (From S. Car.) = C. Emmonsii, D!
"C. plantaginea" (from Collins) = young laxiflora?
"C. panthosphyra". (from Darlington) = C. lupulina.
There is no "C. castanea" in the Herb.; - but I find "Carex. — Specimen." which is the C. Elliottii. —— There is no "C. bullata"; - but I find "Carex." - S.C. (= C. polygamoides.) which is probably, as we have long suspected, the thing.

If you see Hooker, & think of it, ascertain if he has received any specimens, since the death of Elliott, from any of Elliott's family. His daughter told me in 1836, that she intended sending specimens to him, as she knew her father had designed doing, & may-hap the Herbarium has thus suffered. It has certainly been defrived of some things. — By the way, it is most time the specimens in your hands were restored, eh? —

It is now too late to act upon my suggestion touching Gen: Ill. so far as Vol. II. is concerned. But let me know in season for Vol. III. & I will endeavor to get my acquaintances in this State to give you the benefit of profits. Do you sell Vol. II. for Six Dollo! It sells in Charleston for Five. Only 60 plates, you know.

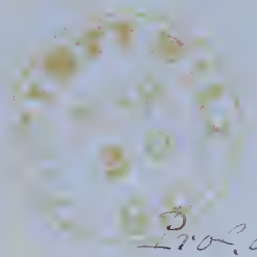
If I had known beforehand who was to be at the Charleston Meeting of savans, I should have tried to be there, though I had but lately been in the city. It seems that the city did the hospitable very handsomely, which I am glad of. I ~~have~~ should have liked hugely to see Harvey, Agassiz, &c. The latter made a statement of his views touching the plural-unity of the human race. He may be right in his notions of this subject, so far as the lower animals & vegetables are concerned, but analogy does not demand, though it may support, the conclusion touching the human race.

The parcel for me, which you "have lately found." I should be glad to see. I suspect it will bring to light some things long missing from my Herb - my original specimen of Darlingtonia among them. As navigation closes with Spring upon our Rivers, I should like to have you get it to Putnam as soon as you conveniently can, with an order for despatch.

My new department of exploration having forced me wholly upon foreign resources, & thus got me into a most confounded snarl of business, I have now done promising any aid to those who pursue such old fashioned subjects as Phanerogams. With as strong a desire to serve you, as ever I had, you have before this discovered that little reliance can now be put upon me. I do not mean to give you the slip in the matter of our wishes, & you may hope for the best. But let me tell you, that 20 yrs. labor at the South is very apt to evaporate most of the energies a man brings with him from Yankeedom. I say further, that, except on parochial matters or on journeys, I do not know that I have moved a half mile from my door in a twelve-month. I am getting old & lazy, & I sometimes think very seriously that a very few years will see the end of my botanizing. Even now, I pass weeks sometimes without looking at a plant, or caring a fig for the whole vegetable kingdom. The passion, it is true, will revive; but I cannot say how long it will continue to inspire me, even at intervals. — Nous verrons. Any how, believe me to be,

as ever, most truly yours,

M. A. Curtis



10

Prof. A. Gray

Cambridge

Mass.

Society Hill, S. C. May 9th 1851.

My Dear Sir,

I have recieved your two very friendly favors, & if I had had anything to offer in return should at once have replied to each. I have nothing now to say in particular, except that you have my thanks for your remembrance of me in the midst of your hurry & toil. — But it has now occurred to me that perhaps a letter from your native land may be always welcome & cheering though there be nothing of importance in it. And so here goes at a venture. — If it were not for the abominations of sea-sickness to which I am very liable, having made three sea voyages & tried it fully & enough, I do not know but I would go over to England & see you instead of writing.

I have made arrangements to leave my home here for four or five months to recruit enfeebled health. In November last I had a severe attack of a sort of mongrel Rheumatism or Neuralgia; — then again in January, & another in March of true blue Rheumatism, from which I cannot recuperate. So my parishioners agree with me that I ought to cut loose from labor for a few months, & see what journeying & ease can do. I at first thought of my favorite haunts in the Mountains, where all would be new again to my present pursuits. What a harvest of Fungi & Lichens I could raise there in three or four months! Indeed, I went so far as to promise

Prof. Short (who had a thought of spending next Summer at the Warm Springs) that if he went to Bunconbe I would join him there. But then the thought that I might never again have an opportunity of seeing my Parents, whom I have not visited since 1844, persuaded me to change my plan & look to the future for a chance at Grandfather, Table Rock. &c. &c. &c. Beside, I do not yet need to go so far for Fungi. I am yet overwhelmed with material on hand, & I am perhaps indebted for my bad health to a little too much labor among these things. And yet further, if I go North I shall have a chance at Herb: Schwein:, which is of prime importance. And if need be, I can go to the White Mts, & the range in the West part of Mass. So I can turn my back upon old Bunconbe & Yancey for this time without very serious regret.

I have not yet arranged my movements;- indeed I shall leave it to circumstances to determine them;- but if you reach home early in August I shall probably see you. I am greatly obliged to you for taking charge of the packet from Boiffier for me. I will see that you are cleared of my share of the expense put upon you. If the packet contains Phanerogams, I do not want them. Yet I shall have to thank Boiffier very heartily for his good intentions. I hear nothing of the packet yet. —— I have sent Duby a pretty parcel of Crypts;- but have no tidings from him. — Nor have I heard from Fries since he recieved my packet. He sent me a valuable set (about 200) of Fungi by Tuckerman, & promises more. His high authority makes everything from him extremely valuable.

That was an unlucky step of yours at Holyhead. And yet you seem to have been lucky enough in escaping so well the dangers of such a step. I doubt if you could do it again. Most heartily did I wish to congratulate you upon the escape from fatal or permanent injury. —— If I see you next Summer, I shall want a good description of my friend Berkeley from you. From his correspondence & dealings with me he seems to be singularly amiable & generous. I want very much to see him. How on earth he does so much in Mycology, being a Teacher, is a profound mystery to me.

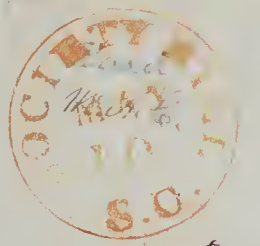
I have much hope of seeing Dr. Darlington here in a few days. By a sudden resolve he has attended the Med: Convention in Charleston, & promises to visit me, if not "too much out of the way." He was my first botanical correspondent, & I should be proud to entertain him at my house.

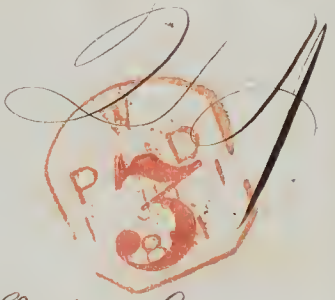
If you can get the Vol: of English Botany, containing the Fungi by Berkeley, you will do me a favor. I do not want the whole work. I made the attempt once through Putnam, but I have heard nothing on the subject. So I concluded that very likely the separate volume could not be obtained. — As your time is of more value than this can be to me, do not put yourself to a minute's trouble about it. Only, when you happen to be in a Book Store you can enquire. — Some of my parishioners are going to London this Summer, & anything else I may want can be got through them. — Will you ascertain from Booth, if you see him, whether he got my Letter of notes on Carices in Herb. Ell.?

I wish you continued health & a safe return, & remain

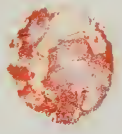
very truly your friend.

M. A. Curtis.





Prof. Asa Gray
Care of Messrs. Brown, Shipley & Co.
Liverpool
England.



Ans^d
23^d Jan^y

Society Hill, S. C. Jan: 10th '52.

My Dear Sir,

I do not remember if I have written you since my return home about the middle of November, but I think not. — I found here a letter from Darby, announcing the despatch of a Box for me, & which is the one you note me about to Phil^a. But I hear nothing further on the subject, & I wish you would inform me about the Vessel, & port of destination, & whatever else may be important for me to know, so that I can write to Putnam about it.

I have written to Chapman about the Boissier envoi, but hear nothing from him. Has Torrey got his package? for myself, I should not deeply regret the loss of mine, but I wish much to present it to the Phil^a Academy, in return for the valuable privilege granted me.

The sheet of Nees plates of Fungi rec^d in Phil^a, & your "Notices of Bot. Lit" just recieved, have much value in my eyes. The last is a sort of thing which Botanists in this country must highly appreciate, I think, as there are very few so situated as to be able to keep the run of such subjects. You are very welcome to send me all such opuscula Botanica. & all you have ever sent are in preservation.

When are we to have more "Plantae Fendlerianae"? I have a parcel that needs naming.

Have you any news yet of Sullivant?

I am working furiously on Plantulae Schweinitzianae. — must give a critical review of Herb. Schweins: with some aid from Berkeley. It needs it sadly. Berkley & I have got to knock off a few of our species, as I have found them in out of the way genera among Sz's plants, or imperfectly described. With all his wonderful skill in Mycology, he must have done a good deal of work very carelessly, & resolved species without any analysis whatever. Hence errors equivalent to putting Petalostemon species under Marshallia, which I once saw from Leitner do.

Berkeley thinks I should begin upon a Mycologia Americana. But I must wait for you, eh? Several more Vols. of N.A. Flora lie between Compositae & Fungi. — Plenty of time yet, if we live long enough.

I hope you are in health & flourishing, & that Mrs. Gray is in better health than when I saw her.

So well, & believe me

truly yours

M. A. Curtis.

Prof. A. Gray

Cambridge

Mass

Society Hill, S. C. Apl. 13th 52.

My Dear Sir,

How could you be so cruel as to award me a whipping, & the loss of Luby's packet on the top of it, even had I been so careless as you imagine. — But I was not so careless. I gave orders anent the Box while I was in Phil.a. But what in the world G.P.O. & his Agents did with it is more than they have condescended to inform me. After some correspondence with them in Jan.y last, it was finally announced that the "case had been traced" & was then on the way to me. I got the box soon after, & asked no questions about the tracing, though I had a strong desire to know how & where they had traced the thing.

Well, after all the fuss, I should have lost precious little if the Box had never reached me. It contains a small & indifferent collection, not worth the freight.

The Boissier packet will probably be in hand to-morrow, being on the way hither from Charleston. I wish to acknowledge their favor, & to make some offer in return. Can you make any suggestions for my guidance. Please to give me Boissier's address.

I have so much Herbarium work that I should hardly be able to do any more exchanging, if it were not for my Boys. One has taken to Mosses & Liverworts, another to Lichens, & a third to Phaenogams, & so among us all the work still goes on.

to send me A. Wrightiana, when published. Give me Wright's address. He requested me to answer his letter, & did not tell me how to direct my reply. — There were a few good things among his Fungi.

Very truly yours

M. A. Curtis

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Society Hill, S.C. Apr. 30th '59

My Dear Friend,

You are not wont to be careless, I believe; but here I write you begging to know Boisier's address, – should not have written but for that – & you reply to every thing else in my letter but that one & most important matter. How can you not do me the favor to try again, giving me his address, & adding any suggestion you may think proper as to what I can propose most satisfactorily to him, by way of return for his fine present of plants. It is true, I had rather not have been the recipient of such a favor; but since so it is, Boisier shall be no loser if I can be of service to him. I send off his collection to-morrow to Phila for the Academy. I estimate its amount at about 400 species.

Mr. Wright will find me prompt & ready to serve him, if he will gather Fungi. Several new & interesting species are in the former small collection.

You are too late in your application for Elm, which flowers here in February. If you can wait till that month comes round again my "Phænogamist Son" shall see to your wants. If we come across any Ashes, they shall also be collected; but these are much out of our usual range. Mr. Ravenel is your man for these, as he lives in the midst of them. I have not examined any here, but I

have seen at least one species on the River a few miles below here, probably F. caroliniana. — Our Elms are U. americana & alata, & probably fulva, tho' I have not seen this last, as I remember. — We have a very distinct variety of U. alata, large, more graceful, & almost entirely destitute of the corky excrescence on the limbs.

I do not know any other way to send "U. Wrightiana" than by mail.

All Botanists will be rejoiced to see another No. of U. S. Americ. — So let us have it this year, if possible.

I find an Azalea here, now in flower, which I never noticed before. It is common in the woods with A. viscosa, & would pass for var: glauca of that species, only it has the large calyx segments of A. arborescens. It is very viscid & very fragrant.

This reminds me to send you a leaf of a species rec.d a few years since from Cooper river, very distinct certainly from any species I have seen, though I have not seen the flowers. I have requested Ravenel to hunt it up, but I hear nothing about it. Elliott could have known nothing of it. Do you know it?

Truly yours,

M. A. Curtis.

Thanks for "Jungnuna sp. nov. Surinamenses."

Prof. A. Gray

Cambridge

Mass.

Society Hill, S.C. July 3d. 1852.

My Dear Sir,

Since receiving yours of the 10th ult. I have made a bold dash after Fraxinus, both by myself, & by chiggers. By the latter, I got only leaves. By myself I got good specimens of one species — all I have found — in fruit. This seems to correspond with what you have from me, collected at Hillsborough, N.C. & marked N.o 2. I have always supposed it was F. ehiptica. — Torrey calls it F. americana. — I find it here on the rich lands of the Pedee. I inclose leaflet & samaras. Good specimens have been preserved for you; which, however, cannot be sent till Fall, for want of river navigation. I will try & send you specimens of most of our Trees & Shrubs, when an opportunity offers, — my son having collected pretty largely & diligently thus far.

Do you know Physalis angulata? — what do you make of it? — It is certainly very distinct from all others that I know of. I can send a specimen from this locality, if it be a desideratum.

Revenons à le Frêne. I hope you will be able to work up Fraxinus satisfactorily, but I am suspicious it is a genus of very variable species. Bose seems to have made sad havoc with them

Do you remember my stating to you last year, that I had written for a N. Car: Gazetteer upon the Trees & Shrubs of N. Carolina? The work was to have been published last year; but another Author comes in competition with rambling sketches & historical scraps of the "old North", & frightens my Author from his enterprise. — After spending the leisure of several months upon my paper, I am sorry that the thing should not be printed. I think it would be interesting to you in some particulars, though heavy as a whole. The Gazetteer will be printed some time or other, I suppose; — but when, is more than I can say. — I find that there are more Trees in N. Car: than in your Northern Flora, & as many Shrubs.

Truly yours,

M. A. Curtis.

P.S. I suppose a man is entitled to all the benefit of his honors. I may therefore state that Senat: Acad: Univers: Car: Cantab: has attached to my name what Dr. Cox calls a couple of "semilunar fardels".

P.S. I have opened the letter to enclose another thing; Achenia superficial - fruits wholly tasteless. — What is it?

Prof: A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Society Hill, S. C. Augt. 9th. 52.

My Dear Sir,

I am very glad indeed to have that Amazonian Hyptobychia, & am greatly obliged to you for it. Is the name H. Spruceana? I cannot make out your writing satisfactorily.

Give your Baptisia Serenae to Bentham, & I will send you a good specimen in flower & fruit. Has yours good fruit? If not, let me know & I will send pods in a letter. These are important in this species; though now I have got familiar with the thing, I can tell it by the leaves, flowers, or fruit. There is nothing here to compare it with except B. tinctoria. There are still but the two old stocks within easy reach, from which I gather all my specimens. One of these got broken off last Spring, so that I could gather from only one. But I got two or three good specimens. On my journey north last year in the last week in May, I think I noticed this species ten or a dozen miles from here. And on consulting my children about it, they confirm the impression that I spoke of it & called their attention to it. I had intended going to the spot last June, but missed the chance. The plant must be very rare. It is however a fine thing. I do not know that I have anything further to say upon it, than has been given in my description. It is always found, bordering damp ground – either in the wet soil or near it.

I have just finished looking over a splendid package of some 1200 species & varieties of Cryptos from Lenormand. Several years ago he sent me about the same number. I find it hard to reciprocate with such a man. But he persists in the affection, that he is the most fortunate who can send the most plants. His species are not only numerous, but specimens generally complete, often numerous, & very beautifully prepared. I have more & better from him than from all European Cryptogamists united. — I can safely say now, that I have the largest Cryptogamic collection in America. My Fungi alone considerably exceeds Schweinitz' collection of the same; & I suspect, my Lichens also.

I had more trouble with Putnam in getting the above parcel, which left Hanover May 10th. I wish I knew some one who would attend promptly & faithfully to such things.

A word or two about Hypolyclia. You have it Hypo = brichia in the Flora. Suppose you suggest the correction to Bentham if he publishes the species. He might also as well call me M. A. Curtis, & not M. C. C. as in the Flora.

I intend sending you a small parcel of shrubs & Trees' specimens next winter, & will then send you the Baptisia. So you need not fear to let Bentham have yours.

Yours truly

M. A. Curtis.

P.S. I addressed a Brother Clergyman at Asheville, N.C. some days since, requesting him to send me the inscription on Lyon's grave stone. This morning I got a return, as follows.

"In memory of John Lyon
who departed this life
Sept. 12th 1814
aged 49 years."

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Philadelphia, Oct. 6th

My Dear Sir,

I have yours of the 4th inst. Thanks - glad to hear of a package from Havre - must be from Duby a Lenormand - much obliged to you for information.

There is no news from Chapman yet. I suspect he comes by sea. I hope he has met with no disaster. If the packet from Boissier ever comes to hand, I think I shall present it to the Academy here in part consideration of the favor shown me.

I have been permitted to take specimens from Fung: Schwein: whenever there are more than two of a species. As this is not unfrequently the case, I shall be able to carry away a good many species for examination at home, instead of making a tedious analysis here. With these, notes, & sketches, I shall be able to authenticate most of Schweinitz' Fungi in future. I find some very curious mistakes for a Mycologist of such acknowledged skill. A number of species are destroyed by insects, but most are in very good condition. My little son is poisoning the lot as I go over it. It is very lucky, that I came upon the examination at this time, as destruction was fairly beginning & would have gone on rapidly.

I looked a little one morning at the Muhlenbergian Herbarium. I fear it is in a sad condition. You remember that I have

always questioned Nuttall's accuracy upon Galact: pilosa & mollis. One of these he mentions as mixed with G. glabella in Herb. Muhl. & by that means I expected to identify his species. Unluckily no such mixture exists at present, & either the glabella or pilosa is wanting. So I have lost the anticipated pleasure of tripping both Nuttall & yourself. I still hold to my opinion, however, & think that G. Macreei is the right name.

I had a jovial two days with Darlington, Townsend, & James, visiting Hort. Barth, & Mr. Cope's. At the latter we saw that plant of plants the Victoria Regina;- Leaves, flower, bud & fruit! I suppose you saw it in England. Mr. Cope has had leaves 6 ft. & 6 in. diam. Six ft. 2 in. was the largest I saw. Prodigious!

That "Fungous matter" which has "struck your eye since I left", please lay up for me, & I will hereafter tell you what to do with it.

I have been working like two since I came here, & I am awfully fatigued at night, hardly able to stand up. I fear I shall break down before I get through Herb. Schwein. But the stake is a tempting one. When I tell you that I endeavor to get through 200 species daily, & sometimes accomplish it, you will see that I am not idle.

I wish you would not hesitate to call upon me for what you want. I will do something for you, though it may not be all you wish. You need not fear the asking anyhow.

I wish you & yours all reasonable happiness, & be assured that I am

ever cordially yours.

M. A. Curtis

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Society Hill, S. C. Oct. 25th '52.

My dear Sir,

I have written to Mr. Wright about his Fungi – i.e. how to send them. He has been for some time sending me Fungi (in Litt.) which have been very acceptable. He has furnished some 12–15 new species – some of them exquisite things. [Only to think of such a thing as an exquisite Fungus! But do you make trial of them, & then see what beauties lie hidden from all but favored eyes.] I have this morning reported to him a "Trichobasis Wrightii, n. sp., & a something "pulcherrima", & other n. spes. I hope he will do great things for me in those far regions. He has a splendid chance. – I am glad he has supplied you with so "much novelty." I have not yet lost my interest in Phænogs though my studies are chiefly among the Cryptos.

You shall have a good specimen of Baptisia Leucantha, in place of what you sent to Lenthall. My boys have now completed their season's collection – over 600 species (about 4000 specimens) of Phoenogs, & 100 species of Musci, Hepaticæ, & Lichenes. – Out of these I appropriate to you one specimen of each woody plant, & whatever herbaceous thing I am uncertain about. My purpose in this is to help you to the range of species. What you do not want to keep will find a market in Europe, – only, you need not send any of them to Boisduval, or Bries, or Lenormand, for whom my collections this year have been made. – Without these young chaps I could not possibly do any thing more in Phænology – there's a word for you.

I have already been using Baillon, & recommending him to others.

Must Hypobrychia be always Hypobrichia ?, - just because you once made a lapsus ? - Well, I do not much care.

Here I am stumped this very day with a Juncus (J. bonadi ?) an Aster, & an Ilex, - must send them to you. If I think of it, I will enclose the Juncus, hoping for your opinion thereon, & a bit of the (deciduous-leaved) Ilex. - I wonder if this last may not be the real I. decidua, Walt., whose description I have not seen ? - It is not ~~the~~ I. parvifolia by other certainty.

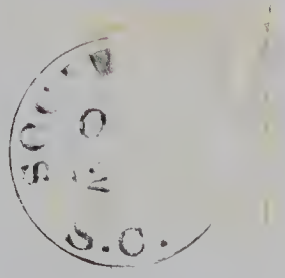
I shall send you a packet as soon as one river takes a navigable rise. Sometimes we have to wait till Christmas or later.

I hope you prosper in all reasonable things.

Pax vobiscum. I am

truly yours

M. A. Curtis.



Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Society Hill, S. C. Dec. 24/72

My Dear Sir

I am glad you have those plants, & I am glad if you are pleased with them.

I shall want to be sending plants to Europe now soon, & I wish you would, if you can, tell me what to call those things that I have not named in the packet. I do not want to send any not named, nor do I want to omit any that offer any chance of novelty.

The Ilex cannot be Walteri, decidnus, The characters you give are all against my plant. So I reckon it must be new.

The Trichomanes I sent you had fruit. When you hear from Hooker, let me know what is its specific name. I have no description of species, except of T. alatum.

Beaumont has begun to send me Fungi. — one letter — & I have agreed to help him — may get something new from him. I have two new things from Peters. — [By the way, thanks an Bahia thing — it is new — Aecidium Bahiae, n. sp. tifidium, Bcompositum, which I spoke of to you, derived from Beaumont.

— hoping for an early notice from you of whatever Boy — & wishing you many a merry Christmas.

Truly yours

M. A. Curtis.

My Boys think that Ilex should be named after my Phanerogamic son = Ilex Ashleyi. What say you?

Society Isle, S. Pac. Dec. 24/71

My Dear Sir

I am glad you have those plants, & I am glad if you are pleased with them.

I shall want to be sending plants to Europe now soon, & I wish you would, if you can, tell me what to call those things that I have not named in the packet. I do not want to send any not named, nor do I want to omit any that offer any chance of novelty.

The Ilex cannot be Walteri, decidnus, The characters you give are all against my plant. So I reckon it must be new.

The Trichomanes I sent you had fruit. When you hear from Hooker, let me know what is its specific name. I have no description of species, except of T. alatum.

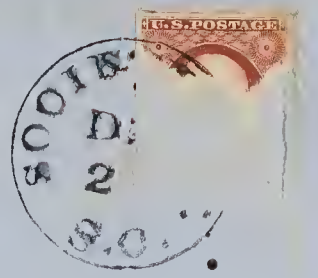
Beaumont has begun to send me Cryptg.— one letter — & I have agreed to help him — may get something new from him. I have two new things from Peters. — [By the way, thanks for that N. Mexican Bahia thing — it is new — Aecidium Bahiae, n. sp.

The Aspl. pinnatifidum, B compositum, which I spoke of to you, I since learn was derived from Beaumont.

I write in haste — hoping for an early notice from you of whatever merits notice in my Box — & wishing you many a merry Christmas.

Truly yours

M. A. Curtis.



Prof: A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Society Hill, S.C., Jan: 6th/53.

My Dear Sir,

Iyesterday rec'd your indulging letter with Wright's Fungi. These are very welcome, though I already had the same from him.

I have written instructions to B.M. already.

I am glad I can spare you a specimen of Tipularia from my Herb. — but with only part of a fruiting specimen. I have never seen this any where but at Wilmington. If it grows here, it has yet to be detected.

The reason of writing now is, — I rec'd a letter from Ravenel this morning, containing a request from Prof. L. Gibbes of Charleston, for assistance in a Flora of the Carolinas & Georgia which he has in hand. Now I had rather see this work done by a competent hand. If Chapman would only go ahead, my course would be clear, for he should have all the aid I can give. I have written him this morning to learn what he is about, & begging him to work away. In a letter from him a year since, he seemed disposed to back out because Darby was on a similar track. But Darby's knowledge of species is exceedingly limited. Both he & Gibbes are only competent to a compilation, & that imperfect. Now ought Chapman to retire from such competition? I am clear for his going on, & I wish you & Prof. Torrey would give him a jog, & encourage him to undertake what he can do better than Gibbes & Darby & I put together.

But what I would particularly ask you is, — whether I should do right to withhold the knowledge I have of Carolina species & localities from Prof: Gibbes, in case A. Chapman will not prepare a Southern Flora? — At present, I am inclined to think that I ought not to give him my assistance. And unless you have a better opinion of his qualifications for the task than I have, I shall probably abide by this judgment. I should like your opinion in the case. If a refusal gives offence, I want high authority to sustain & justify me.

I wrote you not long since, begging your attention to such of the plants I sent you as were doubtful to me. But this of course is only in case you can attend to them without serious inconvenience.

I wish you & yours a happy New Year, & am

truly yours

M. A. Curtis.

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Society Hill, S. C. Jan: 19th '53

My Dear Sir,

I did not expect you to study the plants for me in the parcel lately sent. I thought it probable that you would remember some of them, being often engaged in the study of various genera for different publications. I am sorry your memory is not of more service to me in this case; yet it is of no great importance that I cannot certainly name some of these things for my correspondents. I am obliged to you for what you have done.

I am glad to have the name of the Trichomanes. I have your two forms of it, - i.e. if you refer to the one with sporangia reaching to the summit of the columella as in Lopsoma. A pretty thing.

I do not myself like that "Ashleyi" sort of thing, nor did I suppose it would suit you. No importa. I will think of something else for the Ilex when I send off my specimens, & let you know what it be.

That "Lobelia" is what "I too used to call L. puberula", but in looking in D.C. Prod: for it I got confused as I always do in that Genus, when I refer to that authority for Lobelia.

That Desmodium - mostly unifoliolate - is certainly not a distinct species. I only sent it to illustrate my theory in regard to a form in Carey's possession (which he said he should send to you) which he compares with D. Wrightii, which I

refered to D. laevigatum. It was collected by Ravenel.

In the matter of "D. paniculatum, var.", I do not care to take up time upon it now, but I may have to defend my reference to that species hereafter. It does not fall certainly under any established description of that species. It was a very stout specimen, full 5 ft. high, growing in a damp savanna.

That old D. ochraleucum from Hillsborough I have not seen for years, viz. to examine it. You ask what it is. I can only say, if not a decumbent form of D. canescens, that it is a n. sp. & characteristically named. I leave it to you to decide.

I have had no confirmation of the reports touching the apostacy of Bp. Ives - but I fear it is true. His confirmation will not surprise me, knowing what I do of his course for some three years past. The Bishop is not a sane man, & has not been so considered for some time. A sane man in his senses could have conducted as he has for several years. If I thought him sane, he would be to me an object of unmitigated contempt. As it is, I pity his case most sincerely. His family is subject to insanity. He himself was insane, before he was Bishop. As a case of honest & intelligent conversion to Romanism, the case has no kind of value. It is only a year & a half since, as you may have seen, he publicly recanted to his Convention some extravagant doctrines which he had hoarded. To me personally he had repudiated them before, while to others he was holding different language. And shortly after his recantation to Convention, he is said to have expressed regret at it. But I hate to talk about this; & would not, only for the step the unfortunate man has taken. It may become necessary now to make a full exposé of his late course.

Berkeley has proposed an American Fungology with me, which I am glad of. The redaction will be chiefly his work. We shall get a going after waking up Herb. Schwein. which is a more serious job than I anticipated. There is now ready the Exotic Fungi of Schweinitz' collection, chiefly from Surinam, about 90 good species, mostly new, two or three new Genera. This is mostly the work of Mr. Berkeley. To Mycologists it will be an interesting paper.

Among these Exotic Fungi, under the name of "Rhizomorpha vaseulosa", is what seems to be a Podostemacea. Your notice of Tulasne's Monograph (He is a capital Monographist, his Fungi Hypogæi is magnificent) induces me to send you a part of my specimen, to see if you can tell the Genus, which I should like to know. Even an approximation would be serviceable.

[redacted]

Yours truly

M. A. Curtis

Prof: A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Society Hill, S. C. Apr. 1st 53.

My Dear Sir,

I have your note of March 26th, & reply instanter, hoping I may be in season for next No. of Sill. Journ.

The Fung. Carol. does not want much notice. In the material on the other leaf, you will find more than text-enough for a Bibliographical touch.

My Boys have pressed specimens (in flower) of Ulmus alata & Americana. — They can get leaves probably, before I go to Charleston (4 or 5 weeks hence) when I will take them along & send by Express. — I forgot to mention, in reply to your question upon it, that Bungenia Indica is thoroughly naturalized here, though not common. I have found it on Sinian low swampy grounds.

There are about 120 species of Plants in your Northern Flora that I have not got. Do you know any mode by which I can get most of them, if I pay well — in kind? They are of course the rarest things. Of the Cryptogamia I have almost all. — I had hoped something from poor Baker.

Have you got plenty of Trichomanes Petersii? — I have some good patches to spare, if you want them much.

A review of Exotic Fungi in Berk. Schweia. is in press, to be followed, soon as possible, by a revision of his American species. vid. next No. of Trans. Phila. Acad. — If of any importance to you, I will send a copy of the article to you, when I get the sheets.

Dominus vobiscum.

Truly yours

M. A. Curtis.

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

"Fungi Carolviani Exsiccati. Fungi of Carolina, illustrated by natural specimens of the species. By H. W. Ravenel, Cor. Memb. of Acad. Nat. Sciences — Memb. of American Association for the advancement of Science. — Fasc. I. Charleston: John Russell. 1852."

"The present Fasciculus is the first of a series which I propose to issue, of the Fungi of Carolina. Nearly all the species have been collected in this State, & mostly in this locality. Each Fasciculus will contain a century of species, of which about one half will be peculiarly American. As materials are obtained, I shall occasionally introduce extra-Carolinian species which may be new or interesting to American Mycology, the localities of which will be properly noted."

Fasc. II. will follow as soon as sufficient materials are collected for its issue."

In the preparation of this work I must acknowledge my great obligations to Rev. M. J. Berkeley, of England, & also to my friend Rev. M. A. Curtis of this State. To the former, for his examination & determination of a large number of my specimens. M. Berkeley's accurate acquaintance with European & inter-tropical Fungi, & his extensive & well assorted herbarium, give to his opinions a proper weight of authority in the determination of these obscure plants."

To M. Curtis I am indebted for much valuable information respecting the synonymy, derived from an examination of the herbarium of Schweinitz, now in the possession

of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Pha." (sic.)

The later American species of Berkeley & Curtis have all been verified by an examination of authentic specimens." -

Black Oak, South Carolina. "

Then follows a "Systematic Index" of the species.

Then come specimens.

The Volume is a neat one, 8 in. × 10, substantially bound, & with good paper, superior to most of its kind. The specimens are good & sound, & generally in sufficient quantity for a thorough illustration of the species. In this particular it compares well with the Slips: Cryptog: of Ellongiot & Nestler.

Only about 30 sets are issued, so that those in want should apply soon. Price $4.00.

Collection of this sort very desirable, in proportion to the obscurity of the subjects. To be hoped the author will be able to continue it. He seeks no profits, but merely remuneration for outlay. — This collection very valuable toward illustrating the species of Schweinitz, & Berkeley & Curtis. European Mycologists particularly.

Several typographical errors indicating haste or carelessness — should'nt happen again.

Society Hill, S.C. Apr. 4th/53.

My dear Sir,

Here you have my list. I shall be glad to have any of these species, indeed am so anxious to get them, that I will accept them even from yourself. — Take your time for it. There is no use sending me packages in Summer, for our River is not then navigated.

Rec'd the Miquelian Pamphlet, & subsequently the Sphaeria herculea, Mtg., in a letter. I was delighted with this specimen, though far less herculean than a specimen collected in Texas by Lindheimer on Yucca olivaeformis, & which is Xylaria Titan, B.&C. mscd. The two are identical. — Thanks.

My boys have found Lepuropetalon & Myosurus here, which I had never before collected. I enclose some for you. — The Algologist has found what I take for Riccia lutescens fertile (must be that one upon which I thought I might perhaps rouse up Sullivant again. Sure enough, I got a letter from him yesterday. He says his interest in these things is as lively as ever!

Did you have any suspicion upon my "Quercus coccinea"? The fruit is very curious for that species; more like a cross with Q. rubra.

We have a late Spring. Hex Amelanchier just putting out leaves.

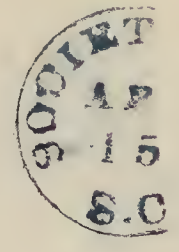
I will explain to Ravenel about the notice. I have however prepared him already for the disappointment, by advising him of our late action. — I expect to pay him a visit of a week, some ten days hence, — then a week in Charleston.

Do you correspond with Miquel? — If he would send me a parcel of his species ravioes Fungorum, I will venture to promise as much new matter in return.

Yours truly

M. A. Curtis.

Peziza [illegible] in part



Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass

Socrs, Hill. S. C. May 31/53.

My Dear Sir,

— "But no Baptisia Serena" in the parcel! — This is a good joke — the best of the season. Why, how could there be any, when I never put any in — never intended to — & you never asked me to put any in? — But you look in your Herbarium, & if you do not there find two good specimens of Baptisia Serena, one in flower & one in fruit, rec.d from me within the last 6–8 months, then I'll freely forgive you the joke, & try again.

I find this Baptisia now turning up in several new localities a few miles from here, & have laid in a few specimens which you can have, if you wish. Ravenel has also just found it at Aiken, as I prophesied he would. I have told him to send you some.

I spent a week at Aiken with Ravenel not long since — saw Cenatiola all about there, & for the first time the magnificent flame col.d Azalea calendulacea. Oh, 'tis beautiful. Calycanthus was in company with it. By the way, I am surprised to find that this grows here, & for 20 miles further down the river. I did not know it was found so far eastward. — If you have need of Elliottia, I dare say you can put Ravenel up to getting roots. I know it grows back of Hamburg, & he lives only 40–50 minutes' ride from there. It is possible it may turn up around Aiken, which is a very similar region. Try him. He has nothing in the world to do but herborize.

Many thanks for your efforts & good intentions in my behalf. Every new acquisition is highly prized by me.

I am sorry I had no better specimen of Planera for you. I grabbed it while passing beneath in a canoe, on Lowdes's Lake, some 20 miles below here. There was plenty of the small tree-like Hornbeam overhanging the water, but the whole so infested by galls that I could find but a solitary small bunch in fruit. I never before saw it alive. A gentleman with me called it Hornbeam. — And this reminds me to mention that Quercus cinerea is here called "Blue Jack;" - Q. Catesbæi, "forked leaved Black Jack"; Q. falcata, "Red Oak."; & Q. pumila, "White Oak Runners".

Tuckerman offers any bits of Potamogeton he may have remaining. I wish he had thought of me earlier.

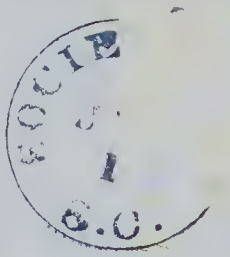
I enclose a bit of Ilex Amelanchier in flower. I have larger specimens for you when I send another package.

How is the health of your wife? With kind regards to her, & best wishes for you & all yours, I remain

cordially yours

M. A. Curtis.

Name of Oak
in S. Carolina



Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Society Hill, S. C. Dec. 13th '53.

My dear Sir

Your favor of 26th ult. has been some days on hand. Thanks for the Fungus. It illustrates a locality, & so goes into my Herbarium, tho' it seems to be found over the country wherever a Rubus grows. (= N° 91. Fung. Carol. Exsicc. I.)

And this reminds me to say, that I will notice Fasc. II. of Ravenel's Exsiccati. I shall however postpone the matter until I can hear from him, as I want to persuade him to reprint the labels, which are sadly corrupt with typographical mistakes & bad Latinity. Ravenel is no scholar, & does not always know the right when he is told. — He justifies "Louisiana" in Fasc. I, because "there is no such place as Ludoviciana". — He sees no important difference between "Hale misit", & Hale legit, although there is the difference between a truth & a falsehood, since I sent him the plant, which Hale collected. He may recieve the corrections in Fasc. II in no better spirit; but I wish to give him a chance to correct his carelessness & his blunders. If he does not, why then I shall have to say an unpleasant thing in my notice, which I had rather avoid.

I am greatly obliged to you for the interest you have shown in procuring us Phanogamous desiderata. I have rec'd your packet

of specimens of A. Wright. Every new thing is now a treasure. I only want Botrychium simplex to finish off the Ferns. So help me to that, if you can.

I must thank Mr. Sprague for his exertions in my behalf, & will endeavor something in return, tho' the Society's Herbarium was somewhat increased by me in 1833,4. Would he like Cryptogams, especially Fungi, but any except Algæ?

For some days, I have been studying my Carices. There are three or four groups of these things that are very distracting. Carey's is the best redaction we have had; but I am not wholly satisfied with it. Indeed, I presume he is not himself satisfied. I must mention an error in his account of C. stramínea. The achenium is as distinctly stipitate as that in C. scoparia, tho' he says it is sessile. I have proved it by Carolina & N. Engl. specimens, & by those in Sartwell's Exsicc. C. alata seems to have a shorter stipe.

The Cinna pendula which you sent confirms my Roan Mt. specimens, which was what I wanted it for. I now find that I have Carex bullata from Mt. of St. C. Last year I found it here, & sent to Carey. I was greatly rejoiced to find, in Carey's review of Sartwell's Carices, that Boott had established the C. adusta, on Sartwell's № 49. I suspect I am the earliest discoverer of that thing, having found it in 1834 in great abundance on "Chelsea Beach". Dewey would have it C. festucacea, tho' I tried to make him see a n. sp. in it. I could never place the thing with any other form.

Very respectfully

H. A. Curtis.

Prof. A. Gray

Cambridge

Mass.

Society Hill, S.C. Jan. 20th 54.

My Dear Sir,

I have your favor of the 6th, with sheet of New Genera, & enclosed Fungus, for all of which accept thanks. I believe I am indebted to you for Agassiz' notices of the viviparous fishes from California. If so, thanks again. Nothing of that sort is amiss to me.

The Fungus on Abutilon Texense is Uromyces pulcherrima, Berk. & Curt., first sent us from Texas by Wright. I am very glad to get more of it, as it is a fine species. I think it will be well, if the Abutilon is distributed with this Fungus on it, that you should notice it under our name. Otherwise, we shall be pretty certain to lose it.

Ravenel is unwilling to reprint his labels, & hopes for charitable construction. This, however, will not be accorded. He is somewhat mortified, after having taken extra pains to secure accuracy, to find there are so many errors; - but he is evidently unsuspicious of the full enormity of them. My relations with him are of that intimate nature which will not permit me to speak with as much severity of the blemishes in this Volume of his as I should be tempted to do in any other case.

some of them are from pure ignorance; but I do not wish to say so in public. So I shall say just as little as I can.

My Asclepias acerotoides I gave up long ago as probably A. tomentosa ovovata of Elliott. I think I must have mentioned it to you or Torrey or to both. I am not now going to study into the matter. But if I go to Charleston this winter, I will look into Herb. Ell. & see what can be learned from that.

I am sometimes worried with the thought of what is to become of my Herbarium when I have done with things of earth. My collection of Cryptogams is doubtless the largest in America. It ought to find a place where it will be preserved & be available. It would be easy to make a bequest of it; but I do not feel as if I should do this, if I can possibly realize anything from it. Do you suppose I could make any prospective sale of it to any Society in this country, — not to be paid for till received?

On next page I give a few words to Ravenel — as little as I could say on the subject. You can alter any or all of it, if you choose.

Truly & respectfully yours

M. A. Curtis

Transmon

I think Brooks has not got his Society Hill, S. C. Sept. 22/54
of the right sheet, if I remember; I have seen him, & given him
but have no specimen. Tell me about it, when you return this
letter

My Dear Sir,

Yesterday I returned from the Black Mts., N. C. I left home on the 4th to escape the intolerable heat of this region, but found no alleviation until I had passed Greenville, S. C. All parts of the country seem to have had a degree of heat the past Summer beyond all precedent. It was a relief to get into a temperature on Blk. Mt. where the mercury ranged from 62° to 69 during my stay. And now when I reach home it is just the same temperature here, the Therm^r to-day ranging from 60°—70°. I had one of my sons with me, who thus for the first time saw a mountain.

There is now a house of entertainment near the summit, about a mile & a half from Mitchell's peak. A hack runs weekly from Asheville to the foot of the Mt., from whence people ascend on horseback to the tip top. Unfortunately I had rainy weather, so that I herborized but little; & on my return to Asheville I found a letter recalling me home on account of the dangerous illness of two of my daughters. Thank God, I find them in a fair way of recovery. I had intended spending some days in the Hickory Nut Gap, & had also thought of a run to Caesar's Head &c. As you may suppose, there has been some disappointment in this interruption of my plans; but doubtless it is all for the best. I brought home but a small stock of novelties. My son got a skin of the "common Crop Bill" which was common on the Black in the Fir region. This was a novelty to us. But I have a more interesting piece of news than this. I have been hearing for a year or more of a new Rhus found by Prof. Gibbes in Buncombe, & one of the first things Dr. Hardy had to talk about at Asheville was the Rhus Gibbesii of Torrey. The original discoverer is Dr. Forster who has a summer residence near A. & whose acquaintance I made. From him I obtained all necessary information for obtaining the thing it being abundant all about the

Blk. Mt. House. And now to spoil a pleasant theory — I could but laugh heartily when I found R. Gibbesii to be Pyrus microcarpa DC. — I suppose Dr. Torrey never saw anything but the leaves.

Sept. 23 d. — Thermometer this morning at 57°. This is as extreme for the season as was the heat during Summer.

I am indebted to you for some unacknowledged sheets — "New Genera" & "Bibliography." Thanks. I am always glad to see these things.

Have you heard any thing special from Wright since his arrival in the Northern & Eastern parts of the earth? I hope he will do something in my way. He got some beautiful things for me in Texas. The tropical parts of this continent must be a mycological paradise. I wish we could get an adventurer into those regions, who would collect diligently. I have bought a small but "splendid collection" (fide Berkeley) made by Spruce on the Amazon, "almost everything new." — How covetous we become of novelties. Here at home I have found enough to satisfy a reasonable ambition. Wonder if they will ever be published!

Probably I should not have written you at present, but for my trip to the Mountains. I have little to report, but it seemed very natural to inform you that I had been in a favorite region, which you would yourself much like to enjoy again.

Believe me
very cordially yours
M. A. Curtis.

Society Hill, S. C. Oct. 16th '54.

Myy Dear Sir,

Please send me Tulasne's address, complete, & I will write to him:

To-day I rec'd a note from Tries, with your hand in the direction. He gives notice of a packet sent to me last Summer, but says nothing of its direction. Has he sent any thing to you, which my parcel might accompany?

I am surprised that Torrey should give Gibbes the credit of correcting his error about the Rhus, when his assertion about it was — "it surely cannot be Cyrus." — The fact of the matter is, this was no new & sudden thought of Gibbes, uttered in the form of query. From the beginning of his knowledge of the plant, he knew that it was considered by some to be the "Rowan Tree". But I suppose that the thing being so different from any Cyrus he ever saw, & with more the appearance of a Sumach, he would not at all entertain the idea of its being of the former Genus. The whole affair is an inexcusable blunder on his part, & shows his unfitness for compiling a Flora. — I knew, of course, that Dr. Torrey could never have examined the thing. He was deceived as I was myself at first. A dried specimen was shown me as the "new Rhus", which I unhesitatingly declared was distinct, though at the same time remarking its singular resemblance to R. Americana. But as soon as I found the living thing at home, & in fruit, I had a good laugh. It was in its glory on Black mountain.

Where in the world did Prof. G. pick up that tale about the poisonous quality of his new Rhus? This is worse than Pursh's story about Rhus pumila & poor Lyon.

Very truly yours

M. A. Curtis.

Society Hill, S. C. Dec 11th 54.

My Dear Sir,

I am prodigiously glad to hear of the Friesian envoi. I had lately been entertaining a hope that it would turn up with your parcel. — You shall receive my share of the expenses in due time.

Please enclose all in a Box (including those gatherings you have been yourself laying aside for me from Sprague &c. &c.) & direct to Messrs. J. & J. D. Kirkpatrick, Charleston. I am unwilling to run the risk of the sea with the parcel, therefore please send by Express. If prepayment is required, will you be kind enough to do the needful for me, letting me know the amount at once, & I will see you clear of all loss & damage on my acct.

I have payments for sundries to make in Boston next month, when I will send money for you also. This will be better & more convenient than sending Stamps.

With your letter there came to hand a quart.o Memoir from Durand & somebody, all in your own style & fashion, but not quite equal to the Cambridge Professor. I am glad that Durand — who is a real clever fellow — can now enjoy himself in botanical study, & reap some reward for his long devotion to Flora.

Winter is upon us with a vengeance. Two days last week we had Therm^r at 18° at sunrise. I suppose you would make nothing of this, but we call it stinging.

But cold or hot, I wish you & yours all happiness,

& am most truly

your obliged friend

M. A. Curtis.

Society Hill, S. C. Jan. 22/55

My Dear Sir,

I have rec'd that Box from Yates safe & sound. I had something of a scare about it in consequence of unusual delay by the Steamer from Charleston, boats which left later having arrived here first. — I am much obliged to you for your trouble & care about it. About a week ago I sent money to my Father for sundry purchases, & have requested him to send you Two Dollars.

I should like to have met you in Washington & heard those Lectures; but if I had previously made up my mind to go, I should have been prevented by my own sickness & that of my family. I have not preached this year, though if it had not rained yesterday I would have made a venture. I have never before had such a cold, whatever it may be, & think it should be called pleuro-pneumonic-catarrhal Influenza! It has defied all remedies but that of time. I had to go to bed with it for a few days. My eldest son has been in bed now three weeks, & for a time was quite ill. All my family have had the disease, but we are all now, thank God, on the mend. — May you live long & happily.

Truly yours

W. A. Curtis.

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Society Hill S. C. Jan. 24/55

My Dear Sir,

In writing to you a few days ago I forgot to speak of an important matter which I had intended to notice. — I did not thank you specially for the nice little set of plants, which you have been kind enough to gather up for me, all of which, I believe, were wanting in my collection. — If I recollect right, you once mentioned to me Mr Sprague as having offered to supply my desiderata as far as he could. The tickets are not in your hand-writing, & so I fancy I am indebted to somebody else for the valuable present. — Please put me in communication with the Donor, & I will send him thanks with an offer of such things as I can give.

Truly yours

M. Curtis.

Henry Hill, N. C. Apl. 4th 1855

My Dear Friend.

Many thanks for the Cyperus Iria from India, just rec'd. I like to have a foreign representation of all our species which are common to both Continents. This is all I want to have of exotic Phanogams. When I was at Wms College in '51, Prof. Hopkins showed me a small but pretty collection of Indian plants, unnamed, among which I recognized this same C. Iria, & from which I took a small fragment, just enough to serve for comparison. It was collected near Bombay.

I am also indebted to you for a Fungus upon a leaf of Eryngium, ~~Convolvulus~~, collected by Lindheimer in Texas; - for which I am greatly obliged, although you sent me a leaf of the same several years ago. [No, it was Dr. Engelmann.] - If you ever have need to make any allusion to it, you may designate it as Didymium lateogriseum, Berk. & Curt. - Being new & rare, if you meet with more, please let us have some.

I am indebted to you also for several pamphlets, not yet acknowledged, & which I cannot specify. - But thanks for the whole of them. I wish I had something to reciprocate with.

You have not yet mentioned whether you have rec'd the Two Dollars, which I requested my Father to send you, & which he informed me some time ago he had enclosed to you. If it has miscarried I should like to know, so that we can try again. I am very anxious that you should not lose money by me.

I am now on rapport with Sprague, & I hope he may do something in the Fungus way. He has sent me some good specimens.

By the way — can you look at your specimens of Lycoperdon Iria, & see if you find any small sacs or utricles attached by a filiform stipe to the panicles — about this form & size. — I took it at first for a cocoon, but on dissection, & examination by microscope, I find a curious Fungus. I have but one, & would be glad of more. How I should like to hunt Fungi within the Tropics! — curious & beautiful things are found there. — And this reminds me of a thought which has lately been revolving in my mind a good deal. I want a man to go to Surinam or the Amazon, or thereabouts, to collect Cryptogams — nothing but Cryptogams. Who will subscribe, & how shall we get the man? — Can you tell me? — I mean to mention this to Berkeley when I write again.

Have you got fruit of Smilax Walteri? by which I mean our red-berried Smilax, — I know but one. There are some berries here on my table, which you can have.

Do you know — Ravenel has lost his wife? This is a serious blow to him — tho' he bears up under it as a Christian man should. He is left with several daughters — (he has no sons) — just at the age when they especially need the guiding & forming hand of just such a mother as she was.

I will send him some of the Lycoperdons, as you request.

Truly yours

M. A. Curtis.

SOCIETY HI... 4 PM 9 S.C.

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Society Hill, S. C. May 15th 1855.

My Dear Sir,

I don't know why your late letter of 28th should have been so long on the way; but it was over 20 days in reaching me. I hope it is not too late for your offered aid in getting a letter to Tendler.

I am much obliged to for suggesting him to me. Of course I come down upon him with all pungent persuasions & promises. Please commend me to him, with so much of solicitation in my behalf as you can conscientiously urge. I will certainly do as well by him, as any one.

I have written also to Dr. Cragin (?). I hope he will turn attention to Fungi. It is very little trouble to collect these things, if they let alone the fleshy watery species, as I advise both these gentlemen to do; — for it is only to wrap up a stick or leaf or bit wood in a piece of paper & throw the thing into a box. — I shall be greatly pleased if they should both send me collections. — I must trouble you to direct these letters & see to their forwarding. I enclose them in another envelope.

My Father had mentioned your receipt of the money; — but it had slipped out of mind when I wrote. I beg pardon.

No! I have not any Southern seeds to send you. But give a list of what you want, & I will see what I can do. I can not promise much, for I am rarely in the woods. Ticks & Red Bugs have fairly beaten me from the field. My children can perhaps gather something. They are this year busy in Ornithology, Mammalogy, & Ology, for Prof. Baird.

Can you tell me what is the Californian or Oregon Pea? I raised a few stalks last year. Certainly it can not be Vigna glabra, taking my Florida specimen for a guide. The thing is worthless in the South, where we have the infinitely better Cowpea, in numerous varieties (species in DC. Prod.)

What is the famous Japan Pea? – The drought has killed my seed. One has come up, – looks like Desmodium, – certainly not Pisum or Lathyrus.

I send you some fruit of Smilax Walteri? – It is our common & only red-berried Smilax, very showy in Winter, & so I call it Walteri. I do not know what else to make of it.

I see Darby's Southern Botany again, mentioned in Putnam, & in Harper, for this month. I wish we could have something more complete & accurate than he can give. He is not a practical Botanist at all, – tho' good, I believe, in Organography. But a good book will not stay. – Where is Chapman?

Do you know anything of Hayden who went with Prof. Hall to the mauvais terres? He began to send me Fungi from Ohio, & promised to continue to send. I have heard no more from him. And of Wright? – I hope neither he nor his collections were in the missing Porpoise (?).

Well, I have asked about questions enough for once. Au fil – au revoir –

votre tres devoue

M. A. C.

Society Hill, S.C. Jan: 14th 1856.

My Dear Sir,

I would not trouble you just yet, but I want to get that Fungus figure out of mind, & the Fungus plate off from my writing desk. Nevertheless, do not hurry yourself to answer, but take a comfotable leisure moment.

The Plate is from "Ann. des Scienc. nat. 4e Serie", - "Bot. Tom. 1. pl. 11." It contains figures of seven Fungi (2 spp. of Cantharellus, 2 of Marasmius, & 2 of Agaricus) but the 7th is not named at the bottom of the plate. The name of this 7, 7a, 7b, is what I want to ascertain. I can not be more explicit than this, having exhausted all the data.

Having now learned from you how discriminating your Academy is in the election of Fellows, I do not know that I have expressed my acknowledgements with sufficient vigor. But it is too late to remedy the omission, though I should be sorry to have it thought that I depreciated an intended honor. I suppose it is the duty of those thus distinguished to reflect back as much renown as they can, & I will therefore see if I can do the Academy any credit. I reckon I can keep pace with short, but I can hardly

hope to keek in sight of Torrey & Engelmann.
I take it, I am indebted to you solely for recommendation; so be apprised of my gratitude for your kind offices. — I can now balance Berkeley's "F.L.S." with something more appropriate to the subject than a "D.D."

I am glad to learn that you are "getting on swimmingly" with Manual. My oldest son is waiting for it, for the sake of the Bryology & Hepaticology which he affects chiefly. Success to you in this & all honest enterprises. I wish you had more leisure. I have done asking about the "N.A. Flora," not caring so much now for these vulgar subjects.

Yours very truly
M. A. Curtis.

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Society Hill, S. C. Feb. 6th 1856

My Dear Sir,

If you can find a minute to tell me what to say to Tendler, please give me your advice. I was not prepared for such a proposition; as I supposed Collectors prepared sets of plants for distribution themselves, after getting them elaborated by some competent Botanist. I intended to assist him in getting subscribers to the full extent of my ability.

As to making an offer for his Fungi in the mass, I could not do it without some able backers. I have not the money. If well off, I would not hesitate a moment. — What would be a fair offer? — What is the usual price pr. species or specimen of flowering plants? — What was given for his Mosses & Hepatics, if you know? — If I only knew what is a fair price pr. specimen, I could then perhaps come to some conclusion as to how far I could risk an offer, in expectation of being backed by some of the Fungologists here & in Europe. 'Most species of Fungi' (excepting the fleshy forms) are not worth half as much as other plants, as they cost very little trouble in preparation, there being no pressing or drying to be done, — nothing more than wrapping up in a bit of paper.

I think it not at all unlikely that my friend D. A. Poe of Montreal would take a set of Tendler's Ferns. He is an amateur gatherer of such things, having purchased Ravenel's Fungi, Tuckerman's Lichens, &c., although he has very little if any knowledge of species. He occasionally sends me Fungi, Lichens, & Mosses, to determine for him. This morning I got half a dozen Mosses from him, & a dozen species of Ferns from the W. Indies. — If you desire it, I will write to him about Tendler's Ferns.

Who can perform a labor of love for me in determining the above W. I. Ferns & returning them to me? I have no acquaintance with Exotic species, & have no books upon the subject. I do not recognize all the Genera even; & of the species, only a Trichomanes & an Adiantum.

I will only say further at present, that I am

very cordially yours

M. A. Curtis.

Society Hill, S. C. March 25th 1856.

My Dear Sir,

As to those Ferns I concluded to make trial of them myself, with the very scanty means in my library. Here is the result.

Trichomanes alatum. — Cystopteris fragilis. Bernh!
Allosorus gracilis. — Adiantum tenerum?
Aneimia hirsuta. — Polypodium pruinatum.
Vanitis lanceolata. — Blechnum.
Polystichum acrostichoides? — only a single pinnule, but looks exactly like our U. S. plant.
Lindsaea. — Selaginella. — Selaginella.

I believe I will send the unknown ones to Breckenridge. Any body with books could settle them in 15 minutes.

I was going to write to Fendler in Venezuela this very day, when your letter came to hand. I am glad he is close by, so that an intelligible & prompt arrangement can be made for the future. I enclose a letter for him.

The Fungi he has with him, if he is disposed to let me have them, may be sent at once by Express (in as compact form as possible without injury) -- via Florence Depot, Wilmington & Manchester Rail Road. I can not estimate their value, not knowing their number or quality, or I would make remittance at once. If he remains long enough in the country I can do so hereafter. If, however, he leaves immediately, I suppose I shall not run much risk in offering to

make good Ten Dollars to any one who will advance that amount to him for me. I will repay immediately.

If those Fungi are sent me by Express, as I do not live upon the Express route, it is necessary that the package be prepaid. If you will advance for this purpose, I will send the amount as soon as I learn what it is. I should like to know by mail when the parcel is forwarded, so that I can be prepared for the contingencies of delay & miscarriage which sometimes occur.

It lies on my mind that it is illegal to have two letters under one cover, so I will not enclose that to Tenders but direct to your care.

How does the Manual come on?

Yours truly

M. A. Curtis.

Society Hill, S. C. Sept. 8th 1856

My dear Friend,

Since finishing & directing my letter to Dr. Engelmann, I have concluded to enclose a note to you in answer to yours of 28th ult. — You are quite right in not wasting time upon those ferns. I supposed that a ten minutes reference to a well ordered Herbarium would clear up all the mystery of those few things. — Perhaps I shall now trouble Dr. Torrey with them, as I would like to accomodate friend Poe with the names, if possible. For myself, I care very little about them, as the Genera are patent enough. I have no use for Sendtner's ferns. All my means must go for the Spanish majora, sc. Phycologica. — By the way, I am always pleased to catch you in error, though it is a rare pleasure I have had of that kind. — That No 10 is not Woodsia obtusa, but Cystopteris fragilis, — that's flat. Aliquando Homerus dormitat.

The No 17. has been acknowledged. All right.

I saw a description of your head, coat & breeches, as you appeared in Albany. (Vid. N. York Times.)

I have been lately much afflicted by the death of my eldest son, (on the 5th of Aug.) just at the close of his first year at College. The day we expected him to reach home I met his corpse at Wilmington, where he was buried the next day. I have the consolation of knowing that he died in full faith & hope. The President writes — "The clearness of intellect, the power of faith, & the glow of loving confidence in that hour, was wonderful. Never to my last hour can I forget that manifestation of Christ's love to his dear child." — There is a great deal more to the same purpose from the Pres^t & from one of the Professors, wh. gives me great joy; but the loss is keenly felt. He was an exceedingly amiable youth, & much loved by all who knew him. But with his great gain, the home reached which we are all struggling to attain, I do not wish him back in a sinful world. The separation is short.

very cordially yours

M. A. Curtis.

Society Hill, S. C. Oct. 6th 1856.

My Dear Sir,

Do tell me what is this enclosed thing, collected by Poe at the mouth of the St. Lawrence, & sent me for the Fungus on the leaves. — Either I have forgotten my Horn book, or it is something new to me. — If of value to you, you can retain the specimen; - otherwise, please return it.

Thanks for the paper of Zulaime. He has hit the nail on the head in that matter. I have long been decidedly of his opinion in regard to those Genera he mentions.

I do not know that I can be of any use to you in those "Statistics." — If you shall ask specific questions, I will answer when I can. Nothing occurs to me.

Truly yours

M. A. Curtis.

P. S. I did not answer Engelman's last letter from Cambridge, because I had already, (in a letter then on the way) spoken definitely to the subject of Sagittaria &c. He has already from me all that I can furnish.

Hillsborough, N.C. Feb. 26th 1857.

My dear Sir,

Behold me settled again in my old home — my well beloved Parish, — drawn back by strong mutual attraction, & by a much larger salary than tempted me away. — I like this county for a residence much better than the flat region of Pines palustris, though that has its attractions, in spite of its intolerable Summer climate. — I have been on the ground near a month now, & thought it best to notify you of so important a translation, & at the same time renew my connexion with the learned world by a paragraph for the Journal of Science, q.v. on next leaf.

The weather for three weeks has been as remarkable for its steady Spring-like serenity, as it had been, for some weeks previous, for its arctic severity when the Mercury got down to — 16° ! — Elms are now in full bloom, & buds of early trees are swelling fast. I fear a loss of fruit by the cold of March.

I have no news for you, — but, as our county people here say, — "I wish you mighty well", & am

very truly yours

M. A. Curtis.

Paid
Box 24.

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.

Pittsborough, N.C. March 26/57

My Dear Sir,

Your favor of 19th is hereby acknowledged. A note from Swan & Phinney was rec'd by same mail. — To-day Torr's promised vol: has come to-hand, & I have been skimming over it for a half hour, - quite enough for an impactial review according to Sidney Smith's receipe. — I will send them a few words soon, & also do what I can towards introducing it at the South. But it will not be easy to compete with Darby now, who preoccupies the ground, & with the Grammar has also a field-book, all in one. The descriptive part is meagre & incomplete enough, but then the Teachers do not know that; & besides, there is no cheap substitute for Southern Botany.

Wood is taking the Southern field too. He spent a couple of days with me a fortnight since, & has milked me to some extent; tho' fortunately, my Herbarium is not yet unpacked & I could not show him but a small part of my collection. I have been sorry, since he left, that I showed him as much as I did. He will prepare a U. S. Botany, & is to get $1500. a year from the Publishers (under certain conditions $2800, which he thinks he shall realize) for - I forget how many years after publication.

Here is a pretty speculation upon borrowed capital! — How is it, that the most profitable Text Books are prepared by sciolists! — Editors, Comstocks, Woods, &c. Wood will make a four months' tour through the South, — in Winter too, — take a rapid survey of a locality or two in each State, — overhaul every collection he can find, pump every collector who will submit to the operation, — & then announce in his Preface that he has made the extensive tour through the U. States & examined all the principal Herbaria with express reference to this great work, & give his book an appearance of singular authenticity by the free use of !!!! to his species, although he carries away neither specimens nor descriptions. I allowed him to take notes upon my Hex & Smilacchier, nothing else — though I permitted a full use of names. — I have never seen his Class Book (he promised to send me a copy when he gets home) but I suspect he has some facility in the art of making a book, & nothing is easier than a botanical compilation, & with the aid of three publishing houses will very likely make a good spec of it. — He suspects, what I did not tell him I knew, that your Book was originally brought out for the purpose of heading him.

I have looked hastily at the accentuation in the Glossary of your Lessons, & have a word or two to offer upon it. "Vexillum" is wrong. "Bijugate" should have been accented, for I doubt if many would say Bijugate according to rule. — There is no more reason for "Umbellate" than for Umbellet, & yet you have antepenult accent to the latter. — So you have "Cucullate" & "Flabellate", & yet say "Flagellate". The same rule should govern all penults followed by double consonants, if we are to be governed by the rules of Latin quantity. But I do not like the application of those rules to anglicized words, but prefer to be governed then by the analogies of our own language. I can not, & will not, say — fibrillose, pedicellate, pinnisillate, sagittate, samaroid, echinate. I think it contrary to the character of the English language, & that it ministers more to vanity than propriety, to engraft the prosody of dead tongues upon it. You will say axillary & capillary to your dying day in spite of all the Romans.

I have this morning finished Miss Murray's Book, in which I see that you quite won the Hon. Lady's heart. I think I should have liked her, as she seems to have a good deal of heartiness. But I have smiled some over her Botany & Geology. Wonder if she has published any of her "novelties", — her little Steris, e.g. "not found in Gray's Botany." — the old P. gracilis, I suppose. I like her opinions upon our social condition very much. She is essentially right in her views on the Slavery question.

Berkeley has been engaged about two years on that Introduction, for which Bailliere gives him £200. This work has very much interrupted intercourse between us, but has enabled me to work up odds & ends that I could not otherwise have attended to. [Last year I distributed more than 12,000 specimens! I have now pretty much done with that kind of work, I guess.]

I have written to Bailliere to send me a copy when his stock reaches N. York, & when I get it I shall call attention to the work in Vill. Journ.

I have little doubt the work ~~will be~~ is well done, for he is not only an incomparable Phycologist, but an excellent Algologist, & has a fair knowledge of the other Orders of Cryptg. - He has illustrated the Book with some of my new things. I wish he had not so many extra things to do, so that we could go ahead in good earnest with a Phycol. Americ. or at least a Prodromus. But dear me, what a task!

Can you send me two copies of my notice of Fung. Carol. - or what will be the same thing one to Ravenel - when it is published?

Who is "D. C. P." that notices Sullivant's Mosses? I can not make him out.

Is Prof. Bailey dead? - I see the death of Prof. Jacob Bailey of West Point announced in the Papers.

I last night set out two pretty yearlings of Taxodium in my yard, just rec'd from the low country. Since seeing that exquisite tree in the Hamilton grounds near Phil^{a}., I have had my heart set upon trying a few in private grounds here at the South. In their native places I never saw a handsom tree, & I did not know that they took a symmetrical form, until I saw some in & near Phil^{a}. - I have also got some seeds to plant.

I reckon I have gossiped about enough - so good bye for the present.

Yours truly

M. A. Curtis

Glad Tendler & Wright are likely to find Fungi enough.

Hillsborough, N.C. Apr. 7/57

Dear Sir,

I send a hurried notice of Berkeley's book so as to get it in next No of Journal. Insert if you can.

Get the Book & read his Preliminary Observations - some good sayings in it - Some of the book rather careless, after all his promises - but good on the whole I think.

Truly yours

M. A. Curtis

the Abolitionists chew that cud, & relish it as they can. I can give full proof of the statement, if need be. Emancipation has been retarded fifty years in those States by northern agitation. Every movement made by those fanatics fastens a rivet in the chains of slavery. 'Tis even so. Then what is the wisdom or benevolence of their action?

As to their having "the Sacrament of Matrimony" [my dear Sir, do you believe in seven Sacraments?] Christian people here feel that question keenly enough, & they will answer it as soon as they can. If in a system of Slavery, the laws of matrimony can not be maintained, then there is an end of all justification of the system, ipso facto. This thing is not regulated as it should be, owing chiefly to the fact of parties being liable to separation. But this will be corrected. Matters, however, are not as bad perhaps as you suppose. The Negroes are generally fond of being married in a regular way, & are generally encouraged to it, as far as I know. It is said to be worse farther South. We are improving, & will do better as we get older & more experienced & can clearly see our way through all the obstacles before us. Festina lente is eminently applicable here. Violent haste will surely miscarry.

I do not call upon you or upon any one to love the peculiar institution, nor to regard it as the great bulwark of civilization & liberty, if you are not inclined, but merely to take for granted that, as a civilized & Christian people, we will do the best we can. Since commencing this letter there has been sent me Dr. Cheever's tirade upon the Dred Scott decision. This is S. Car. nullification run mad. The Doctor has been once in prison for libel, he ought to be again there for preaching sedition & rebellion.

I had no idea of running to such a length on this topic. But I am

Yours truly — Wm. A. Graham.

Hillsborough, Apr. 17th '57.

My Dear Doctor,

I got your letter to-day, with squib on Berkeley returned. I can now perhaps put it into better shape, but I do not feel disposed to make an elaborate review of that Book. I am not competent to do it properly, & have hardly time if I was disposed. Just now I am inclined to say less rather than say more. My purpose at first was to give early notice of the work & so recommend it as to induce a ready sale which it merits. The more I look into the book, the more marks of careless haste are noticeable, & my relations with Berkeley will not permit faultfinding. Somebody else will have to take the Book up as a whole, or else several adepts take each Order for a special critique. I shall confine myself to the Fungales. You had yourself better do the general work, or at least review the Preliminary Observations. I am sorry Berkeley could not find time to give the matter a better finish; but he is overwhelmed with work, & probably could not have leisure to do better.

The Publishers have sent me your Manual, & in looking over it I marked some things which I give you on another sheet. Some of the errors in quantity are clearly typographical. Those in the personal names are so common that I suppose the accents are given as intended; but they are against analogy & authority. With this exception the book is quite accurate in quantities.

The evils which you allude to in connexion with our peculiar institution are not unknown & unfelt by us, & are gradually being alleviated. But the difficulties of their entire removal are great. Families are rarely separated except in cases of absolute necessity. The entire feeling of the South is against it. Take a case: When I left S. Carolina I tried to buy the husband of one of my servant maids. The owner was willing to sell, & under the circumstances offered him one or two hundred dollars below appraised value, but the scamp of a husband would not follow his wife, though he writes to her here that he shall always be true to her. I opposed the marriage for some months in anticipation of removal. But the fellow was so anxious & persistent that I finally consented & married them. I have no earthly use for the man, yet to keep him with his wife would have given $1000 for him. The owners had no desire to part with him other than the wish that he should go with his wife. We both appealed to him upon every ground of propriety & duty, of affection & religion, but to no purpose. And he an intelligent well bred Negro, dressed more finishly than his master! — So when I removed from here to S. C. I bought the husband of another of my maids. People always do this where it is possible. But where persons fail, & their property brought under the hammer, it is not always possible to prevent the separation of families, though it is seldom that the effort is not made. — We claim to have as much sense of humanity & propriety, & to recognize the laws of Christianity as well, here at the South, as you do in the free States. If there are some bad men among us, it is not to be wondered at. The wickedness of a few is blazoned abroad, while the virtues of the many are unnoticed. One thing is certain. The evils of our system, be they few or many, small or great, can be corrected & will be corrected only by ourselves. Foreign intermeddling retards improvement. I assert most positively, after a residence of 25 years in the South, that Maryland, Virginia, & Kentucky, would have been now free States but for Northern Abolitionism! Let

Hillsborough, N.C. May 2nd '57.

Dear Doctor,

With a rainy day & nothing special to do, I may as well reply to your letter just rec'd. — I had no intention of giving you so much trouble, — rather to suggest hints for directing attention to some points that might deserve attention. I am not a very good Prosodist, & therefore in some of the cases mentioned I would not have spoken as ex cathedra, though others were clear enough. I was anxious to know about one or two things, & therefore did propose a question or two that would involve the trouble of an answer. Beyond these, you were quite welcome to accept or reject as you found cause.

In ligustrinus (from Ligustrum) & saccharinus (from Saccharum) I infer they should be short penult, because "adjectives in inus, derived from names of trees, plants, & stones, &c. shorten the penult", (see any Prosody) & I know of no exceptions. Other words in inus lengthen the penult generally. Without good authority, therefore, I hold to ligustrinus. Sophocles' decision for saccharinus, being founded on Greek rules, I do not in the present case so much appreciate, as I do in others.

Of Teutonic names making ernus, I shall be very glad if you can

make short penults for them. I had rather say Fraseri than Fraséri. In making them long I followed general practice heretofore. Proper names in cus generally are short in the penult. So analogy favors your marking.

Acerates. Look in Passow & see ἀκεράτος, as it ought to be by derivation, (from κέρας, κέρατος – a doubtful vowel short before a simple consonant.) (Handwaterdich)

[the alpha in this word is always short in Homer.]

Hydrocharis, Eleocharis, &c. from χαίρω – diphthong, & contracted syllables always long. Sophocles took the derivation probably from χαρις, which would make the penult short. – I mistake. I see that he refers to the verb. I do not understand him. The root in χαιρω is not χαρ. The penult in those words is a reduced diphthong, & so seems to me of necessity long. Yet he is right, I suppose, in spite of my strong reasons.

Penthorum. You are right. I did not notice the breathing. See Darby's Botany.

Androsace. Sophocles ought to know best about the proprieties in this case. But I have the authority of Sinnworth.

Synthyris. I now find θυρις in Passow. I missed it in Donnegan.

I give you my views on the above words. I shall not pretend to compete with your learned Professors. – I am reminded of being once questioned by some of the Professors at our University about the penult quantity of Alfredus, upon which they could find no authority. I was not wiser than they; – but happening to have seen a book in this place upon the etymologies of old Saxon names, – when I got home I consulted it for Gilfred, & found it derived from æl & frieðe, (all kindness) & so sent back Ælfrēdus with a L.E.D. – I wonder if this process could be applied with effect to Heuchera, Leche, &c! – Another time they tried me upon Fredericus. My ear wanted a short penult, as in Americus, & Hedericus, but they are very fierce there for authority & rules (the best Prosodists I have ever seen are in this State, Prosody being a sine qua non in scholastick here,) & none could be found. So the President said he would split the difference & say Fredereecus, as he did, in calling up Frederecus Somebody, to deliver his oration. But proper names not found in the Poets must take their chances of abuse, not having been raised up in the highest society.

I should be glad to know what Sophocles says to Aristolochia, it coming from λοχεια. I don't see any help for it, but don't like it. any more than I like Alexandria & Samaria.

I have jotted down some more things on a fly leaf in the course of looking now & then into your Book.

p. 128. Nesæa – from νησος, a? because generally surrounded by water.

130. Epilobium. I should say ἐπὶ λοβιον – yours too far fetched.

145. Chrysosplenium. χρυσος & σπληνιον? – golden Asplenium.

151. Eryngium. Ἐρυγγανω (to eructate) – good against flatulence.

225. Manuta. = amara Ruta? – rather far fetched.

260. Moneses. Error for Μονηρης (solitary)?

299. Phryma. " " Φρυγη (=Φρυγιον) a plant?

522. line before "71" – for "short petioled", read short stalked or pedicelled.

The thing "on Sycamore Bark", sent you by T. Meehan, is some species of Sphaeria, but too young to supply fruit. My Library & Herbarium are not yet unpacked, so I cannot refer to them for determining the species at present. I have several on Sycamore Bark, & this is very probably one of them. I suppose, however, Mr. M. cares little for the name. It is not the cause but the effect of incipient decay in the tree. It is accompanied in the specimen by an Alga (Protococcus, — P. viridis, I believe.) I retain the specimen, & return the Letter.

Yours very truly

M. A. Curtis.

P.S. Had a letter from A. Wood — wants to get his Mss. under my eye before publication — see him hanged first — have more of my own than I can manage. — I look into Darby's book occasionally — strangely defective — e.g. three species of Heuchera, when there are 6 or 7 in N. Car! I sometimes have half a mind to take up American Books of Botany (the whole batch) & make a grand splurge over them for the N. American. One great fear is the being too savage upon the Comstocks, Woods, & the like, fattening on others food, (cujus arbor non sua.) Don't believe I shall ever write the first line. I hate writing — yet do a heap of it, of one sort or other, — though nothing of much value.

Hillsborough, N.C. May 4th 1857

My Dear Sir,

After getting to bed on the night I wrote my last letter, I got on the right track of that Hydrochaïes, which at the time of writing I was unable to follow. Sophocles is right plainly enough, as I supposed, at the time, he must be, though I did not then understand it. χαϱ is the root, & is short!

As to Τοϱϱεγα, Θλιεγι, Cotesbai, & the like, you have yet said nothing; - but, I think in these cases that Teutonic analogies should yield to the well defined rule of the language into which they are transferred, & be Torrēya, Θlīēgi, Cotesbāi, &c. — If the e, y, a, in the first make three syllables, then y is short & throws the accent on the antepenult or e. If e & y make a diphthong, the result is as to the pronunciation the same from the coalescence of the y with e, & the penult is long.

Should not secalinus (from secale) have short penult? I have never seen it marked so, but I know not why, for I know no exception to the rule given in my last letter.

I am curious to know what Sophocles says to my Acerātes, for I feel pretty confident on that, in spite of him.

Do not let these things give you any trouble beyond what you deem their importance.

I like Fraseri very well, — but Pitcheri offends my ear somehow.
I like Durand's Pe-chéy-ry much better than that.
Nothing more at present, but that I am
yours very truly
H. A Curtis.

P.S. Under Capsella — correct to pástoris — pastóris (increment in o long.)
p. 259. Pyrola to Pyróla
291 Should it be Buchnéra?
482. How about Conrádi? Conradi

Art Jeanmie.
Conradi
2 Mohrodendron long.
Conradi

Hillsborough, N.C. Sept 22/57

My Dear Sir,

I can not write to Dougal, for I do not know his name, & he may be in Guinea by this time. I know of no better way of getting at the root of the matter, than of writing to Capt. Wilkes, wh. you have done already. — It must be seen to, for I would not have the State omitted.

So Wright is with you. Welcom home again. — I reckon the whole lot of Fungi had better be sent to me, as I can afford them with rather more confidence than he. I have written spoken to several about taking sets of these Fungi, but have yet no answers. I want set q^{to} 1 or 2 gratis, for the elaboration. One of these is for Berkeley, the other for myself. q^{tho} Wright should however speak his mind plainly upon such a proposition as this.

I will do what I can in aid of their distribution;- but I can not be responsible for more than the two sets. Two or three others will very likely be taken in this country by individuals. Perhaps some by Societies.

The Collection can be sent to Wilmington, N.C. care of DeRosset & Brown.

Poor Fendler! He is in what I shd. deem a poor business for money making. I yet owe him $10. you know — will pay on demand. Shall I pay over to you? — I am somewhat out of pocket by that operation;- but I got a good collection, as far as it went.

The Cubans will be less interesting, for they have been already explored more or less. Montagne has published a good deal upon the Crypts of Cuba.

Kind regards to Wright — shall be glad to hear from him, & especially to have his views on the disposition of the Fungi.

Yours truly,

M. A. Curtis.

Hillsborough, N.H. Oct. 21st 1857.

My Dear Doctor,

Sprague owes $6,66, & Andrews $4,80, for sets of Fendler's Venezuelans. — Andrews is at present out of Boston, as I infer from a letter of Sprague's rec'd this morning. — Perhaps Sprague will pay you $10,00 for Fendler, & wait upon Andrews for payment. Try him. I write to him to-day, proposing such arrangement. If he is willing to pay only his own quota, — then write to my Father, (Rev. J. Curtis, Charlestown, Mass) for the balance of $3.34, stating your authority, & you will have from my full quota for Zung. Venez.

Some days since I had Wright's letter with your subscript; — yesterday, an old note of mine, with your ascript, — each notifying the despatch of Wright's Cubans. I shall expect them soon, & am clearing off odds & ends in preparation for them. They threaten

long labor. - N'importe. So people don't push too hard, we can get some short out of it. If Wright's Pacific gatherings are to be entrusted to me also - "let them come; I repeat it, let them come"! as the young orators spout it from Patrick Henry. - "I care not what others may think. But as for me, give me" - Fungi, "or give me" — nothing.

Yours truly

M. A. Curtis.

Hillsborough, N. C. May 24th 1854.

My Dear Sir,

I am very much pushed just now, - among other things having a Valedictory Sermon suddenly sprung upon me by the Graduating class at our University, to be uttered on the 31st, - but I will acknowledge the receipt (this morning) of your "How Plants Grow". Thanks therefor, whether the Book be worth reading or not. I presume, however, it is just the thing. I presume, furthermore, that one eye has been directed towards A. Wood in the preparation of this Text Book. I see no objection. I have no very ardent affection for that gentleman.

I have a letter from Berkeley of April 29th, from which I make the following extract.

"I read lately a criticism in Silliman, which points to some real errors & omissions in my Introd. to Cryst. Botany. I think in some instances A. Gray is hypercritical. What he says about "afist", "foreshadowing", p. 56, the two propositions together make a singular paradox, "volition", relation of Lentibularia to Podostemads (the true relation I believe) are all instances. In some he is wrong. In some he has not understood the text, especially as regards foreshadowing. I do not dispute the matter of style or obscurity, but neither is chargeable with carelessness. I was anxious to be understood, & always

had a distinct notion myself, if I have failed to convey my meaning. If the work reaches a second edition, I could undoubtedly improve it, & I am glad to have any real errors pointed out, of which I keep a list." [Then he puts upon Babington the error I pointed out in regard to Trypetheliun.]

"In all the notices of the book I have seen, no fault has been found with the general views, & so far ~~as~~ was the introductory matter from ~~poor~~ being put out carelessly, that it was most anxiously revised by myself & Dr. Hooker, with extraordinary care & reflection. And it is this very part which has displeased A. Gray. The other parts had not the benefit of Dr. Hooker's revision, though he would have gone through the whole, had there been any convenience."

That's all. — I suppose the matter, then, stands thus. If Meth. B. was not "careless" in his style, he does not know how to write. It is very certain, he does not write well. — But in all my correspondence with him, I have found him very amiable & obliging.

Yours truly

M. A. Curtis.

Hillsborough, N.C. Nov. 6th 1858

My dear Doctor,

For myself I wish no remuneration from Wright, & were it not that he had proposed it himself, I should have said nothing about it. But as he made the offer, I stated the fact to Gen. Berkeley & told him he might have the whole amount, if he would help me out with the work. He promptly (& I think gladly in expectation of being remunerated) accepted the task & has faithfully executed it. You speak of his having received a Set of the Fungi. Not of the Expl. Exped. which he has worked at. — Of the Cuban Fungi he has a Set; - but this in consideration of his work on them, as I arranged with Gen. Wright.

I think £25 or £30 will be sufficient remuneration under the circumstances, as you propose. So let it stand at that, if Gen. Wright does not object.

My expenses in the transmission of the Box of Fungi back & forth will amount to $15 or $20. Will Mr. Wright credit me to said amount on the Set of Cuban Fungi for which I am a subscriber? I mean this sum over & above what he appropriates to Berkeley, & which should be determined accordingly.

In the publication of new species at once, - do you want merely the short descriptive phrase, or a full description - all that is to be said. I should think the former enough for security, & the best on the whole. Let me know about this, & I will commence the work instanter. There are 160 or 170 new species.

Respects to Wright. —— Yours truly

M. A. Curtis.

P. S. — Mrs. Curtis says she will pay Mrs. Gray a "real visit", when she is again in your neighborhood. I reckon I shall not be far behind. — Kind regards to Mrs. G.

tinent pretentiousness. The latter is no scientist, & never measured a Mountain, nor can he. And yet he is determined to have the highest Peak in the U.S. named in his honor. I have suggested to B. to name the lowest knob he saw, after C. It seemed to tickle him, & I guess he will do it. I dislike C, & am not very affectionately inclined to B. So "a plague on both their houses."

I asked Judge Ruffin – a very observing man – about the natural rotation of forest trees. He said decidedly that you are right about it; – that the new growth is from new seeds, & from species growing near.

yours truly
M. A. Curtis.

Hillsborough, N.C. Nov. 23d '58.

My Dear Doctor,

Here you have all the new species. If the paper needs a few prefatory words, you will know better than I, what they should be.

I will try to have the complete account of the Fungi finished by Jan. 1st; – but I am liable to many interruptions & hindrances. It shall be forthcoming as soon as possible.

I shall be very glad if you can get permision for me to take any duplicates that can be properly spared from the collection. They will be of much service to me.

I think £30. sufficient remuneration for Mr. Berkeley. So let it stand at that,—my actual expenses being also made good besides. This last I will take out in Cuban Fungi.

My Wife has reminded me this day of a proposition of yours to send us some of your Hort. Cantab. flower seeds for Southern culture. Do you remember what pretty flowers the Ladies set their hearts upon?— I remember one that took my fancy—viz. that big fl.d Datura (D. Meteloides?). N'importe, send what you please.

Buckley left me to-day & has left, I suppose, a parcel of Australian seeds, in expectation of a return of our native products, to be made to you. I hope you may not be disappointed, but it is rather late now to collect. Seeds have all fallen, I reckon.

Buckley has been measuring a parcel of our Mountain tops, finding several higher than Mt Mitchell, if he is to be relied on. Clingman is trying to claim all the honors of the survey, & a pretty quarrel is now going on between them.— C. told me that B. could not read his Barometer till he (C.) taught him. B. tells me that C. certainly can not do it, & that he is a liar to boot. B. tried to involve me publicly in his behalf, which I chose to avoid, altho' I deprecate C.'s impu-

Hillsborough, N. C. Jan. 10th '59.

Dear Doctor,

Yours to-day rec'd. — I am expecting a letter daily from Berkeley. — As soon as I hear, I will tell you what to do with the money due him. Hold on till then.

I am greatly relieved & delighted by a letter from Charleston, announcing the return of Specimens (Ex. Exp.) sent to Berkeley. They were shipped the middle of Sept. last, & I had become much alarmed at the long delay. As soon as they come to hand, & I can look them over, I will send you remainder of Mss. —

My long work upon these & other writing had so confined & weakened me, that I was left an easy subject for a prevalent Influenza, which has played havoc with me since Dec. 26th. I am still hors du combat, but I hope on the mend. My Doctor has told me

to be ready this evening for the insertion of a probang deep into my trachea well saturated with caustic. Bah! I know all about that, & do not covet the infliction.

You do not acknowledge the receipt of a Review I sent you. I had regarded it as a mere squib, but this morning I learn that it has been reprinted in London, & I am somewhat elated thereat. I do not know exactly what your faith is; but I have all along taken you for a Presbyterian, true blue, (although in your family devotions you use the same book of Prayers that I do,) & so concluded that you had no objection to Infant Baptism. Therefore I sent you the article. You need not fear to censure it, if you do not approve it. I shall not hesitate to give you a Rowland for your Oliver. I do not believe in Presbyterianism. But I say this:— Either Presbyterian or Episcopal regimen is the true Gospel system. Popery or Congregationalism is not to be tolerated. Neither are to be found in the Bible or primitive history. If I was not an Episcopalian, I should be a Presbyterian. I allow you, then, to be second best.

As to the seeds from Hort. Cantab. we will be quite content, so we get them before planting time. We only hope you will not forget them.

I can not decide, from your letter, whether you have rec'd two instalments from me of Teng. Ex. Exped. Pacif. — I first sent you diagnoses of new species. Next I sent mss. in full of the species of Exped. as prepared for report of the Expedition;- i.e. in full up to a certain point. I can not send remainder until I hear of receipt of the first part.

Yours truly

M. A. Curtis.

Hillsborough, N.B. Jan. 15th '59

My Dear Doctor,

In a letter rec'd to-day from Mr. Berkeley, I am "desired" that "the 30£, with which I am quite satisfied, may be paid to Messrs. Baillieu, Booksellers, N° 290 Broadway, New York." It is added, that "Baillieu of Regent St. is now at N. York, & probably will not leave before the money is paid, but if so, he will pay it to me as soon as he learns that it has been received at the N. York house."

This will save you some trouble perhaps. So just do as he says, & there is an end of the matter.

I have been sick for three weeks with a severe influenza - am beginning to get better, I believe, but do not yet venture abroad. Hoping better things of you & yours, I am,

sick or well, truly yours

I send another species to be inserted in the paper of Diagnoses. — It should come in after S. depolita, Bob. (№ 159, I believe) & the 2 vos from thence be altered.

If not too late to be inserted in loco, the species should be merely S. bullumica.

But if too late for that, let it come at the end of the paper, by way of Appendix; — & then it should be written in full as I have given it on the page opposite.

Hillsborough, N.C. March 11th 79

Why Dear Doctor,

Thanks for those seeds, which I have divided with Mrs. Cameron. I have also offered to divide again with H. McRee, at the same time telling him that you want a box of Dionaea & Sarracenia. Perhaps he will send them. I knew of no way to help you, but to apply to him.

How will it do for me to threaten, that I will not assort & arrange those Fungi, unless I can be rewarded for my labor with such duplicates as can be spared? It will be a troublesome task, & one that I do not covet. Berkeley was rewarded by the £30,— he has no specimens, all which I sent him being returned, as he was directed, with the exception of one large specimen which he has since found was left out, but which he will send back at some future day. I am the more anxious to obtain a set, because I fear the Government will make no sufficient provision for the pres=

ervation of these unsightly things, & so nothing remain, twenty or thirty years hence, to authenticate these species.

I will make a selection of such species as will be the better for illustrations, & furnish drawings of the fruit of microscopic ones. Is there need of haste? I would like my time for it. I hate to do such things as task-work.

After writing the above, your favor of the 7th came in with Mrs. James' letter. Oddly enough, I had just sent to the P.O. a letter for James himself. I thought I had done with this unfortunate affair about my death. The numerous condolences & congratulations consequent on it have had a depressing effect on me. It seems as if I really had passed through some frightful experience, though I can not remember what it is.

Thanks for Salina Metel.

Yours truly,

M. C. Curtis

Hillsborough, N.C. March 25th '59

My Dear Doctor,

Thanks for the Australian seeds. I have handed them over, with some 70-80 species left with me by Buckley, to Mrs. Cameron. She has a skilful English Gardener who can perhaps do something with them. I suppose a quarter of them will be quite all that germinate. I have selected a dozen or so for my own use. Some of the species will certainly not grow here in the open air, & we have no large Conservatories, - all small.

I hear nothing from the Ree, - so I am afraid the bait I offered did not tempt him. He is hard to move, unless I am in the field with him. Then he will go out every day in the week. I will inform you, if he does any thing.

I will sort out the Fungi, as you suggest, & keep one set to myself. If Government ever

claims it I can give it up. If A. Henry is to have a voice in the decision, I have no fear of re-election.

I reckon it will be better to use those labels you speak of for the Government & ~~a~~ two foreign sets. They will not serve my turn. There will thus be needed three sets, as follows.

Bonin Islands ———	135	labels, each set.
Behring's Straits	76	" "
Nicaragua	70	" "
Japan	80	" "
Hong Kong	50	" "
California	35	" "
Petropaulouski	4	" "
Loo Choo	3	" "
Cape G. Hope	2	" "
Madeira	1	" "

Half a dozen, with localities blank, might be added.

I send you a Fungus Pamphlet by Berkeley.

Yours truly

M. A. Curtis

Answ May 28.

Hillsborough, N.C., May 25/59.

My Dear Doctor,

In a sheet from Sill. Journ., lately sent under your hand, I see that you have made rather too broad (but perhaps unavoidable) inference in regard to Prof. Ellett's doings with Tuckahoe. He never published a word on the subject.

The history of the matter is simply this. While I was living in S. Car. & had become satisfied that the Pachyma was not an autonomous plant, I was anxious to ascertain its component elements. I therefor sent a specimen to Prof. E. (then at S. C. College) requesting him to analyze it for me. He immediately replied that this was an old acquaintance & gave me its character. This I soon sent to Berkeley, & he has made the use of it which you have seen. — So far

as Prof. E. was concerned; therefore, it was a mere private transaction between him & myself. There was no call upon him to give me the history of its analysis. My enquiry was fully satisfied, & that was all he was called upon to do. He did not know me from the man in the moon - probably had never heard of me - [his letter was addressed to "M. A. Curtis, Esq"] & perhaps took me for some inquisitive Pedee Planter, who had never heard of Prof. Torrey or cared a pin for him. Under similar circumstances, probably you or I would have pursued the same short course to the end desired.

It was some time after this that I learned from Prof. Torrey, that this substance had been first analyzed by himself, & that Prof. E. was privy to his experiments. He expressed some surprize to me, that Prof. E. had not recognized his prior labors. But with the understanding of the case as I have given it above, I do not think the oversight either remarkable or censurable.

Your reclamation of the discovery of Selenium for Prof. Torrey is well & just. I had intended doing it myself when proper opportunity offered. But your implication in regard to Prof. E.'s appropriation of others' honor & labor is hardly deserved, I think. Had you not better explain the matter in next No. of Sill. Journal?

Your discussion with Agassiz is interesting & able: but I am not well enough posted on that subject to be able to reach any very definite conclusion upon it. But I am always suspicious of Agassiz. He has an enormous amount of facts - & he is incomparable in the discovery of facts - but I am becoming continually more dissatisfied with him as a generalizer. I think him deficient in some of the elements of a sound Philosopher.

If you are writing soon to Wright - tell him that I have addressed him at "Monte Verde" - the only clue I have to his whereabouts in Cuba.

Yours truly

M. A. Curtis.

Hillsborough, N.C. June 3rd '59.

My dear Doctor,

Yours to-day, with "Botanical Memoirs", for which thanks. — I hope you are satisfied about Croomia — now.

Neviusia is execrable, but I don't see how it could be helped very well, if the Rev. gentleman is to git his apothe=osis in this way. I have just written him for a specimen. I met him in Montgomery (Ala) 18 months ago, & we talked Botany a little. He is a Clergyman of my own order, as perhaps you (don't) know. I do not think any the less of him for that. But on other accounts I do not (probably) think any more of him than you do.

As to Prof. Ellett — I think you should give him all the benefit he can derive from my explanation. It will be in=ferred from your paper, that he had published an analysis, which he did not do. — Perhaps, too, it would not be quite safe to say that he had not himself analyzed the Tuckahoe, as well as Prof. Torrey had. I think he told me, that he knew the thing in Virginia.

It may be, that you or Dr. Torrey were sufficiently ac=

P.S. Do you know this seed I enclose? It seems to me that I saw it — something mighty like it — 25 years ago, in the Cambridge Botanic Garden under the name of "Live Oats." It looks like the seed of Stipa.

A day or two ago two were given me in a box — labelled "Two plants of the Chahajin Chahân, چاہ جن. See Historical Discovery, Nashville Journ. of Med. & Surg. by Prof. W. K. Bowling, M.D. &c. Nov. 1858.

Divina — Soothsayer — Hariolus — Prognosticator.

Natural-Weather-Indicator, which is a Hygrometer at present, & will foretel in any climate twenty four hours the changes of the weather; nothing can destroy its power nor its sensitiveness except fire. — Louis S. Ullman of Columbia, Tenn. was the first discoverer. — Grows in the deserts of Arabia."

These were brought me from Columbia, Tenn. — Ullman is making Barometers of them, by fixing them in a box & fastening an index to the base of the seed, & with the change of moisture in the air the Index moves upon a dial plate of course. One of these preparations (they sell for a dollar each) was shown me. — It is cer=tainly a curiosity, but I can not help thinking the fellow is telling a great fib about — Arabia & his discovery.

quainted with Prof. C. & with his habits, to justify the inference that he has in this case spheterized Dr. T.'s labors. For myself I know nothing about him — never saw him, as I remember.

I have never mentioned "to Torrey what I told you", because it never came into my mind that there would be any need of it. I was not aware, until I saw your reclamation in Sill. Journ, that Berkeley had ever published a word about Duchahoe. But years ago I did tell Torrey all that I told Berkeley. It was from Dr. Torrey's reply that I first learned that he had first analyzed this thing, & that he had called it Sclerotium gigasteum, all which I soon reported to Berkeley. But as Dr. T. did not give me a statement of results, neither I nor Berkeley could quote him in giving the constituents of this strange production. I troubled myself the less about it, because Dr. T. informed me that he intended publishing again upon it, when he would most likely take care of his rights in the premises. Dr & Prof. Bailey seemed to have a deep interest in the investigation of the Duchahoe' nature & habits.

I have read nearly through your article on the "Botany of Japan", & find it very interesting. But I tell you, it is a knotty subject that you try to elucidate. It seems to me, that the antecedent probability is against the theory of cosmopolite plants being all derived from a single individual. If derived from two or more individuals, then it does not matter, so far as I can see, whether those parents, stocks were created within five yards of each other or 10,000 miles apart, — whether created at the same moment, or at intervals of a century. In other words, I can not see that time & place are essential to specific character.

I am very glad to find, however, that your comparison of localities has done much toward simplifying this question, & relieving it of some difficulties that free-thinkers have been fond of using for bad purposes. I am wholly predisposed to your theory, & perhaps should accept it fully if I were more learned on the subject. Agassiz application of his theory to mankind I do abominate, & there is no philosophical necessity for it.

Yours truly

M. A. Curtis.

Hillsborough, N.C. Aug. 22/59

My dear Doctor,

I got home on the morning of the 20th, & found your letter, enclosing a neat drawing of a fungus. — If you have Curt. Iconogr. Champign. look at fig. 2. (Laternea triscapa) & see if it agrees. Also, at Mont. Fl. Chil. VII. p. 497, t. 10, f. 3. If these figures agree with yours, then insert Clathrus (Laternea) triscapus, Fr. — with the locality — next after Lycoperdon in our paper on the Fungi.

I will return you the figure — which ought to be preserved with the collection — when I have had a couple of copies taken. I wish to send one to Berkeley to ascertain his opinion upon it. Should he differ from me — though I feel pretty confident — I will let you know.

I mailed a letter to you at Augusta, Geo. which I hope you have received. — How d'ye to Chapman.

Yours truly — M. A. C.

P. S. — I find an unanswered letter from you of June 9th — Let me now assure you, in justice to my Rev. brother Nevius, that I intended no slur upon him by my brusque expression of indifference. He has a good reputation. And now I am not so indifferent, as he has sent me a fine bracket of Nevinsia, & two specimens of Croomia in fruit, which I rec'd on the Cumberland Mts.

Hillsborough, N. C. Sept. 13th '59

My Dear Doctor.

Wait till t'other instalment comes from Wright, & send all in a lump. I have no use for them at present — have'nt finished labelling & arranging his previous collection yet. Ten free-born Americans are making a perpetual drudge of me in this kind of work. I can't find time to put thousands of specimens away, that are now waiting to be arranged in my Herbarium. I am working for others more than for myself.

I return drawing of Blathmus. I have had copies taken & sent one to Berkeley for his judgment upon it. — That "drab color" in Fl. Chil. can hardly be right, I think. The color must have fuded. Drab is rare in that kingdom, & very unlikely in that Order. The color of Gaudin's plant is unknown, — hence uncertainty about the species: — patria ignota too, I believe.

I've heard nought from Chapman since he sent me the first pages of Flora. I guess he finds more of a job in this printing

business than he expected. – Have you given him notice of new locality of that Trichomanes. It is worth noting – being so rare.

A good many of your Australians have come up, especially Acacia – in Cameron's grounds, Kew – all failed.

Yours truly

M A. Curtis.

Hillsborough, N.C. Nov. 7th '57

Rev. Dear Doctor,

I am writing a commentary on the Nat. Hist. of Hawks' Hist. of N. Car., with the purpose chiefly of gratifying the natural curiosity of N. Carolinians upon the objects mentioned by the old Journalists.

I want your opinion & aid upon a point or two, — thus: —

Pumpkins & Squashes were had by the Aborigenes, were they not, before settlements were made in America by Whites? Some-body has given the proofs of this within a few years, (was it Emerson? Harris?) but I can not recollect where I read the article.

Were the Aborigines of N. America in possession of Irish Potatoes?

Hariot has the following in his Narrative: "Habascon is a root of hot taste of the form & bigness of a Parsnip; of itself it is no

victual, but only a help, being boiled together with other meats." ——— H. Hawks suggests Calamus or Horse Radish is here meant. But Harid would have known both these, I think. Can Indian Turnip be meant?

The earliest writers speak of Peaches. Were they known to the Indians? And Black Plums?

Ilex Paraguayensis is not the same as our I. Cassine (vomitoria), is it? Hawks maintains that it is. Can you send me a leaf of the former.

In my Commentary I intend to give the true history of the Isabella Grape. It is not a Carolina native, but brought from Bordeaux or one of the W. India Islands by old H. Lasseyre of Wilmington (he could not tell from which locality) & from his stock Mrs. Gibbs derived hers, who gave it to Prince, who named it after Mrs. G. — It was cultivated here, in sight of my window, as far back as 1811, under the name of the Lasseyre Grape — a name which it ought to have retained.

Let me hear soon on the above items, & so oblige

yours ever

M. A. Curtis.

P. S. How is Chapman getting on?

Hillsborough, N. H. Nov. 18/59

Dear Doctor,

Thanks for yours rec'd to-day.

About the Isabella. I suppose that Science must be the final arbiter as to its original. I have never examined the plant. If it is more like La: Lusca than to vinifera, then American let it be.

But — M. Laspiere was a Frenchman & had a Brother in business in Bordeaux. There he made a visit to that Brother. On his return he visited another Brother in one of the W. I. Islands (Judge Ruffin does not remember which) where he tarried a while. Both at Bordeaux, & at this W. I. Island, he got quite a number of Grape stocks for planting on the Cape Fear. M. L. could not remember from which of these localities he obtained the Laspiere Grape. He said, that it came from one or the other, it being among the lot which he brought from abroad.

with Wright's & Fendler's current gatherings, I'll no more of this business. I've already got more Fungi in possession than I can ever lick into shape.

Truly yours
M. A. Curtis

He further said — I have two witnesses, both in my parish — that the vine carried to Prince by Mrs. Gibbs was derived from that stock of his. — But if it be Labrusca, the old Doctor must have made a mistake. At any rate, it was the "Lasfiere grape", long before it was the "Isabella".

"Kaishuepenauk, a white kind of roots, about the bigness of hen's eggs, & near of that form; their taste was not so good to our seeming as of the other" (Okeespenauk) "& therefore their place & manner of growing not so much cared for by us; the inhabitants, notwithstanding, used to boil & eat many."

These (see Hariot's Narrative) are what I thought might be Irish Potatoes. Nay, what are they?

I guess you are right about Habascon. I remember now, that it occurred to me, at one time, that it was the Mondo.

I had no doubt about the Paraguay Tea, as I have a figure & description of it; but I wanted to make sure, & to see a leaf, which is said to be 4-5 inches long.

Sorry Chapman got tired of his Book. I wanted it as near perfect, as the nature of the case admitted. But at the worst, it is a desideratum, as Darby's book is of no use to any but School girls.

Your Rubiaceous work recieved with your Letter. Thanks, though nearly all Greek to me. I must confess to much satisfaction in the restoration of Houstonia. There is a delicate refinement about this Genus, which I always hated to see associated with the weedy coarseness of Hedyotis!

If Wright is to send more plants between this & Jan'y, wait & send the whole at once. If not, send on what are on hand. I am now busy making sets of his former collection. Hope to finish in a month. — I've finished up the Ex. Ex. collection, separating two sets (by your direction,) one for Hort. Kew, the other for Mus. Par. I have also taken one for myself, as you suggested. Should this not be permitted by the authorities, then I shall be ready to disgorge, on demand. — All this is horrible drudgery! When I get through

Hillsborough, N.C. Dec. 16th 1859.

My dear Doctor,

Another word about the "Isabella".

I have to-day consulted Mr. Waddell, a Lawyer living near this place, anent the above Grape. Judge Ruffin, of whom I have before spoken in this connection, requested me to ask Mr. W. of his recollections of this matter of the origin of that Grape, as they visited the old Doctor's vineyard together in 1826. Mr. W. was well acquainted with Dr. L. in those days, as he then lived near Wilmington.

Well, Mr. W. says that Dr. Lasprieres always called that thing the "Black Cape", from Cape Francois where he got the stock.

Now, towards a final settlement of this quæstio vexata, please tell me —

1st Does the diœcio-polygamous character

of American species actually distinguish them from European & other species.?

2nd " Has the Isabella, from your own observations, this diœcio-polygamous inflorescence?

If you say "Yes" to both these queries, then I do not see but that the American origin of that Grape is authenticated. The old Frenchman — I used to know his sons on the Cape Fear — would then be mistaken. Mr. H. says he was a veracious man.

13th " Company & other matters made me forget this letter, which should have gone yesterday. Nevermore — its contents won't spoil, till they get into your hands. — Nothing more, but that

I am yours as ever

M. A. Curtis.

Hillsborough, N.C. Jan. 28th
1860.

My Dear Doctor,

I have been sick, & am just recuperating. To-morrow I start for Wilmington, & if, after spending a few days there, I find myself still improving, I purpose attempting a journey to St. Thomas, where our Board of Trustees meet on the 8th prox. My Wife & several young Ladies will probably accompany & take care of me.

I am packing a big box, containing Wright's Cuban Fungi, & those of U.S. Pac. Ex. Ex. — I shall leave this to be sent by Express next week. I have been delayed in this by my sickness.

On next leaf I give memoranda for your guidance in disposing of the contents.

I hope to be at home the last week in Feb.

I had hoped to receive Chapman's Book by this time to amuse myself with in my journey.

Send a copy to Ravenel as soon as it is out. I have told him that he must notice it in some Southern Magazine, which I presume he will do.

Yours truly

A. A. Curtis.

Parcels marked Nos 1, 2, & 3, are of Wright's Cuban Fungi.

No 1. for C. J. Sprague, Boston, = $31.00

No 2. " Paris Museum. = $27.00

No 3. " Hort. Kew = $24.00

I assign the best of the last two to Paris Mus, because Berkeley has a complete set of this Collection.

Parcels marked Hort. Kew, & Paris Mus (Mus. Paris perhaps) are from the U. S. Ex. Ex. Here I give the best to Hort. Kew. - You will know how to dispose of these.

The remaining parcels are so marked, that you will easily discriminate Wright's Cuban from the Government collection. The latter is a complete set, with a good many duplicates yet remaining.

If Sprague prefers a smaller set, then let Mus. Par. be No 1, &c. I shall write to Sprague to day.

Hillsborough, N.C. March 13/60

Dear Doctor,

It seems a long time since I've heard a word from you. However, I suppose there has been little to write about. However, I should like to know if you rec'd that Box of Fungi. I ordered it to be sent when I left for the South, & it is not now here.

As to Wright's new collections, I had rather receive the whole together, when he has finished gathering. It will save me a good deal of trouble. I can not attend to them at present.

I saw Riddell two or three times in New Orleans, the Med. Coll. being only a square from the St. Charles' Hotel. He seemed to be a social, genial, sort of fellow, hale & hearty, looking younger than I, though two or three years older. He is said to

in the perpetuity & stability of species. But Darwin seems to write ably & well — to make as much as can be made of the materials relevant to the subject. Agassiz has a painful horror of D.'s theory; but I can not see why he should cry "wolf" at it.

I send you a squib — a running fire — on Dr. Hawks' History. Let me know, if you find any thing questionable in it.

Why do I not hear, or see, something of Chapman's Flora?

Yours truly,

M. A. Curtis.

have an inordinate greed for money, & to be worth $200,000. I received an unmistakeable intimation that he lost his place in the Mint upon suspicion that its yellow dust adhered to his fingers. I hope this is mere slander. But I remember your own declaration, that "he is not honest."

In Mobile I came near making acquaintance with my old antagonist, Dr. Nott. Mutual friends have been long praising us up to each other, & anxious to bring us together. So the Doctor, having learned that I had passed through his town & should return that way, not only expressed a desire to meet me, but said I should stay at his house! Every body seems to like him. All my friends in Mobile speak in highest terms of him. Unfortunately (?) the Doctor was not at home when a friend went over to notify him of my arrival.

My health improved from the commencement of my journey. Self & Wife returned in fine health. Three young Ladies accompanied us, & we had a fine time of it. The meeting of our Board took up five days, & I took as many more to see a little of Louisiana. It would be too bad, to return home with no other knowledge of the "Father of Waters" than could be gotten by a view from the top of the Custom House in N.O. So I & my party took a trip of 160 miles up the River, returning next day. The weather was delightful, like the days of Indian Summer, & we enjoyed ourselves hugely. A queer country that! The River higher than the land!

As to Gt. Orleans, it is much like other large towns, though, with the exception of its Hotels & a very few public buildings, there is but a small proportion of magnificence & display. Wickedness & vice, however, are more open & unblushing than I have ever seen them elsewhere. This is all due, I suppose, to the French element in the population.

I have been reading your review of Darwin — who seems to me (in his theory) only Rafinesquius redivivus, for old R. anticipated him in that notion of "natural selection" — & I think this about the ablest paper I have ever seen from your pen. I shall not accept Darwin's view yet awhile. I have confidence yet

Hillsborough, Apr. 26/60

My Dear Doctor,

I had rather not give up Wright's Fungi to foreigners. Let them rest a while, & I will take them in hand. If they are in your way at all, you may send them to me by Express as soon as you please.

I really do not know who will take Sprague's set of Wrightiana. I suggested to him, to try Andrews & Bot. Hist. Soc. & Lowell Institute, — the best suggestion I could make.

I have just heard from Chapman — the first time, I believe, since he returned home. If he has given you any orders for a copy to me, let it be sent as soon as ready by Express. If this should not be soon ready, please send me the volume in sheets, right off, by mail. I am going to use that as a standard for my N. Am. Plants. Let me know charges, & I will see you paid.

Your sheets of Hooker are i.e. I have not read but a page or two – enough to see that he goes with Darwin. I have always had a strong feeling against Lamarckianism, or any approach to it: but if this theory is really true, let it come out. I am not afraid of any truth of nature, though people sometimes make a mischievous use of it.

I am surprised that Agassiz makes such ado about it. – Well, ventilate the thing fully. I shall read the discussion with interest, but will not trouble myself with its intricacies.

Yours truly

M. A. Curtis.

P.S. – I enclose a flower, sprung up in a neighbor's Garden – I suppose a Californian Hemophila, but I have no description. What is it?

Hillsborough, N. C. May 24th '60

My dear Doctor,

I have yours of the 17th, & the Flora. — This is a handsome book, & I reckon a good Botany — certainly the best ~~the South~~ yet has had. I have not had time to do more than merely look into it.

And now — send a copy to H. W. Ravenel, Aiken, S. C. — If it can not be given to him, send it at my cost, & let me know amount. My connexion with the work would not admit of my reviewing it; & so I have engaged Ravenel to do that job — say in Russell's Magazine, Charleston. — Nor indeed have I time to attend to it. Our State Geologist & State Printer are ding-ing at me for copy, & I expect to be well occupied on our N. C. Plants for some months to come. I have promised also to do up the Zoology. This last may sur-

prize you; but you must know that I have dabbled in that too. I am now writing on a big box of Bird skins of my own preparation. And it is not three weeks since I sent Baird from this place a skin of Sorex Berlandieri, (caught by my cat,) not before known north of Texas. Two years ago I sent him a new Arvicola from here. So you see I can make a little show in this line.

My first Report will be only the Woody Plants of N. Car., — being chiefly what I wrote 9 years ago for Wiley's Gazetteer of N. Car. — a Book not published. So I have recalled what portion of the Mss. is not lost. I am going to make a mere popular thing of it — not at all scientific. Beyond these I shall give chiefly a list of species. My Fungi list will cost me much labor — the only good thing of the kind ever furnished by any State Survey in this country. The Massachusetts list is worthless, mostly guess-work by Hitchcock.

Ravenel is now busy over his V^th & last Fasc. of Fung. Carol. The thing don't pay.

Mr. R. thinks there are plenty of objections to Darwin's theory. I hope there are, for I do not fancy it.

Yours truly,

M. A. Curtis.

P.S. Is Aster elodes, T. & Gr. a good species? Chapman has omitted it.

Pooh! I have looked in your Book, & find it is A. longifolius.

Hillsborough, N. Car. July 11/60

My Dear Doctor,

You will soon receive a copy of my Botany on the Democratic System. Risum teneatis.

"Why separate woody from other plants? Why, just for the sake of bringing together what I could make the people appreciate & (to a degree) understand. In no other way could I give a popular cast to my Report. The thing is not for the like of you. Botanists have nothing to do with. My next shall be scientific, including the names of this. This I send you merely as a curiosity. You will find it very Michauxian, & yet not all Michaux.

Relying upon an article written ten years ago for a Gazetteer, I commenced writing & printing at the same time, doing all up in four weeks. The result is some confusion,

which might have been remedied but for this attempt at being too smart. However, what will amuse you, will never be noticed by those for whom the thing is intended.

I wish you would say a word in Sill. Journ. upon Jung. Laid. Fasc. V. & last.

I have already had some words with Ravenel upon his shabby Index, (the proof of which he sent me,) but he would leave it in its present arrangement, rather than rewrite it. He seems content with it, because he can find a few derangements in other Indices. But his is the worst I ever saw. — I could not help noticing this in a notice of the Fasc. (which is otherwise a capital one); & if I spoke of it as it deserves in this particular, I might vex him. I annoyed him sadly by my notice of his abominable Latinity & wretched proofs in his first Fasc, & I am unwilling again to disturb our very friendly relation.

Yours truly,

M. A. Curtis.

Hills., N. C. Aug. 4/60

My Dear Doctor,

There is no Orientalis in N. Car, according to my best knowledge & belief.

My "Woody Plants" is only a curiosity for the like of you. Throw it into the waste box. But I did desire to make it of some use to the multitude here, & I find those like it who know nothing of Botany. — I now learn, that this work was put upon me by Emmons without authority, & that the Governor repudiates it. I got my revenge, day before yesterday, by voting for his Union Whig competitor. However, I think the Governor is in the right. I find nothing in the Act, justifying the publication. Now who is to pay for those 2000 copies! — And what shall I do with my Catalogue (complete) of N. Car. Plants, which I have already finished to the end of Ferns.

It will not do for me to give you hints for use in a notice of Torr. Catal. If you have not rec.d a copy, Ravenel will be aware of the fact, & will

of course, charge the thing on me. I really think he ought to be rapped over the pate for that Index, which he allowed to remain in its imperfection, (after I had given him notice, in the proof he sent me, of its gross unalphabetical-ness,) rather than have the trouble of re-writing it. He has since taken about as much trouble in hunting up & sending me (a line & there casual) errors in other Indexes, with a closing moral, that a perfectly accurate Index was never yet printed. He wished, at the same time, that he could refer to some Index of mine. I have since sent him one, over which, I doubt not, he has worked hard enough in search for errors, to have rewritten his own twice over. But, supposing a perfect Index was never yet written, that is a poor excuse for the very worst Index ever yet written.

My relations, however, are such with him that he must go unrapped, unless some other one does it. - Every thing but the General Index is well. Specimens good & abundant, mostly authentic, & half of the species exclusively American, & a large proportion of the latter now for the first time published. - This is his last case. He deserves much honor, for having continued it so far, with sales that hardly paid for his printing. - He is now doing a more profitable business in raising Grapes & Peaches for the N. York markets. I spent a day with him last August, & saw a fine young Orchard & Vineyard. But young as they are, & young as he is in the business, he, last Fall, took a premium for best Grapes over many & older competitors.

I am glad you have dealt so kindly with Chapman. He has been looking with trembling & tenor to your notice of his Book. He will be well content with your gentle handling of his deficiences. I think it a capital Work - considering. No man at the South could have done it near as well, & that is worthy of much consideration. My opinion is, that we have but one Botanist in N. America. All, therefore, outside of that one, which is not real quackery & compilation, I am disposed to favor. Wood & Comstock & Darby live on others. - Give them an Armstrong battery. - Yours truly,

m.a.b.j.

people in the Mts & vicinity, who will talk to you about a Heather on Grandfather Mt & elsewhere, & I was told of a Scotchman who had been quite wild with joy at recognizing a Heath up there. The flowers of Menziesia are near enough to suggest the name; for the rest, it is "false" enough. Then again M. carnea (Erica, Willd.) is "Mountain Heath" — its kinsman wanted a name from the family, & there you have it. Give us a better one, if you can.

Of Prunus Virginiana grows in this State, I have no evidence of it. Do you know of it, south of Virginia?

Abies alba. I found a few trees which I so called. What can it be? I was never very confident upon it. I must look into this, if the 2nd edition is printed.

Before my pamphlet was all printed, I remembered having seen Magnolia Fraseri in your Bot. Garden; but I concluded I would not insert a note (at the end) & so left it as I found it in Michaux. In the same way I made several other omissions. I shall not write & print again simultaneously. — I never saw Androm. floribunda, & knew nothing about its beauty. Thanks for the information.

Dr. Hunter sends me a spec. of Juniperus communis (1 & 2 ft. high) from Crowder's Mt, Gaston Co., N.C. — Pray, how came it there. It is in the wild woods, & unconnected with any plantations. Were the seeds dropped by birds? Dr. H. says it is truly naturalized there. Should I insert it?

Gladiastis does grow at Paint Rock, but that is not in N. Carolina. — According to Buckley, Catalpa is native in the French Broad region.

&c. &c. &c. I've written enough.

Yours truly,

A. A. Curtis.

Hillsborough, N.C. Oct. 3 '60

My Dear Doctor,

I am off for the Cumberland Plateau to-morrow, but will take time, ere my departure, to respond to your broadside rec'd this morning. You have dealt more gently with the "Woody Plants" than I should have done, if I had deemed it worth noticing in a Scientific Journal. The truth is, I have a good laugh, every time I look at that "Tabular view." — However, I think I have pretty well hit the popular fancy, as the Governor & Bookseller inform me that the thing sells better than anything yet put out on the Survey. — You wish it was larger. So did I; but Emmons limited me to 90 or 96 pages (though I ran it up to 120 in spite of him,) & the consequence was — what you see. — I had an interview with the Governor 3 or 4 weeks ago, & he wishes me to go on, without any limit or restriction, till I have done the whole

Nat. Hist. of the State. I found, too, that I had drawn too large an inference from the Letters of his Secretary & the State Printer, in which I was informed that the printing of my Report was without authority, & contrary to express orders of the Governor. I now suspect, that the Governor merely wished to deprive the State Printer of the job. So I am hard at work upon the Herbaceous Plants, which will be done up scientifically. I think my list will reach 5000 species — more than half of them Fungi, which give me a deal of laborious investigation. — Is it worth while to give popular annotations upon such Plants as are in any way interesting or useful? This will double my labor & the publication. I should like to have your opinion on this, or on any other point connected with this business, as I should like to satisfy your taste & your critical scruples in my next Report, or Reports, as the case may be.

I am doubtful if the Survey is continued beyond this year, as Emmons has not satisfied the eagerness of popular expectation, & for want of social tact, is personally unpopular. I hope, for the honor & benefit of the State, it will be carried on, at least two years longer. For myself, I do not care a straw. I do not like my work, & my remuneration, as Assistant, is but $500 per annum.

Take the following retorts to your criticisms & suggestions. — Whether proper or not, Wistaria is universally known among us as Virgin's Bower, & I felt bound to give the popular name. I should have been very glad to have offered numerous hints upon popular nomenclature, but was hampered by narrow limits. If you promised "2nd edition" is called for, I will remedy this & some other things, which I could not correct at the time, as the writing & printing were simultaneous.

Clem. Viorna is common enough, & as deserving of a place as Stenispermum & some others, but, as I followed Chapman, & he puts this under the "herbaceous" species, I did not notice the omission until after the sheet was printed.

I did "coin" some of the names, but "False Heath" is not quite a new coinage. There are not a few

Hillsborough, N. C. Dec. 5/60

My Dear Doctor,

I have no use for Wright's beetles, until all his collection is received. But if you want to get them out of your way, send them on.

Well, "Mimmy Bush" let it be. I rather like the ring of the word, & there is a reason in it too, though none but you & I know it.

You will see in my Woody Plants, that I put that white Huckleberry of Hentz's under var: atrococcum.

I find a small cone of my "Abies alba", which I enclose. It can hardly be your A. alba. Mine (mature) are ovate, 1 inch long, but more oblong than those of A. nigra. But what is mine? A. var: of A. nigra! It is a tree of smaller leaves, & more delicate spray.

I have but a solitary specimen of Carex Mitchelliana, which has but two spikes. Torrey has one with three spikes (I always gave him

Massachusetts & S. Carolina as equally fanatical & wrong-headed, & I wish both were out of the Confederacy, so they would leave the rest of us in peace & quiet. I would like right well to have those two States put into one big Rock Pit, the walls as high & thick as those of ancient Babylon, & there to fight it out until the tragedy of the Kilkenny Cats was actually realized, — nought left in the arena to tell the tale of victory but the tip of a solitary tail — black or white, I dont care which — said caudal extremity to be laid by for the next political Quixote who takes the field in behalf of northern Wind Bags or Southern Black Sheep. It would be an appropriate Banner, with the motto — "Finis coronat Opus."

But now, in more seriousness, let me say to you, our Union is in serious danger, & unless the Northern States recede from their hostile position, & repeal their "personal liberty" laws, the Southern States will secede inevitably. It is not now a question, who has been most wrong, or who is now most in the right. We believe we are, in the main, right; & we know that in some things the North is wrong, has insulted & injured us, & we shall of course act upon our own sense of the matter, whatever be the consequences. We all, to a man, look upon the election of Lincoln (avowedly upon a sectional issue, & that of hostility to Southern institutions,) as an insult & an outrage. In this we are all agreed, even I who am one of the most conservative in this conservative State. Our differences now at the South are derived from a difference of opinion as to the proper time for action. S. Car. & those who side with her, & who hate the Union any how, are for walking out of the Confederacy instanter. The other States, who have some lingering love for the Union, wish to defer the dissolution as long as possible, to give a chance to our northern brethren to relax their hostility — to try Lincoln so far as to prove him, &c. &c. But I tell you what, my dear fellow, if the South is to be kept in the Union, we must have some rather softer words than we have been accustomed to from Sumner, Wilson & Co. With their "heels upon our necks," we are obliged to squirm.

This is an unusual sort of discourse from me, but it may serve a purpose in showing you that we are in dead earnest here now, even the most conservative of us.

Yours, truly, M. A. Curtis

the best specimens in those days,) & Booth had better get his. If the Doctor will not lend his, then Booth shall see mine. But Tovey's is the best, & ought to be the one used.

Of C. Caroliniana I have only Herbarium spec: imens, which I would willingly lend, if need be. Booth is entitled to any favor in my power.

You are quite beside yourself in being "angered" about Bp. Davis's special prayer. The State of S. Carolina is so crazy-headed, that you are suspicious of every thing that comes from her land. I have known that gentleman for 30 years intimately - in fact I made him Bishop of that State - & I can assure you he is not "a traitor or a poltroon." His prayer is just what it should have been, with the exception of the single word "courage", which I wish had been omitted. The action of those clergy who omitted the prayer for the President (if such a thing was done by any of them,) was not a "natural result" of any omission in his special prayer, but the result of foregone conclusions on their part, & would have been just the same if the Bishop had not issued his. I have no idea that the Bishop expected any such omission generally, & I presume none was made in his own parish Church. The omission by any one was premature & foolish, for Buchanan is still President, whom that State helped to elect. Also, Sir, his prayer had nothing to do with that result, but Massachusetts had a great deal to do in bringing it about. - The Bp. of N. Carolina - as ardent a Unionist as lives - has also published a prayer to be used in publick worship in reference to these times of trouble & discord, & not a word in it about the general Government, (which we should all have considered supererogatory if there had been,) & not one of our Clergy ever dreamed of omitting the usual prayer for the "President & all in authority", whatever may be their opinions about secession. You would, therefore, do Bp. Davis great injustice, & yourself still more, if you should "tell him to his face that he is either a traitor or a poltroon". - Let me suggest to you, that Secession is not Treason, while the action of Massachusetts, in nullifying & impeding the execution of the Law of the land, is. - The fact is, I regard

Hillsborough, Dec. 12th 1860

My Dear Doctor,

Yes, send on Booth's Carices & those Fungi, by Express. Booth is a fine fellow. I will make my acknowledgements to him when I have rec'd the Volume.

Your erratum on my p. 110 is noticed on p. 123. It was a silly blunder of the Printer, who transposed Aegyrum & Pyxidanthera.

Vaccin. constablaei. I am very glad that comes under V. corymbosum, te (auctore) judice. I never could make anything of the thing. It grows here, I think.

I did not know when I got my recipe for making Cucumbers out of Philadelphus — perhaps from some of your articles. The blunder may be mine.

Thanks for your notes — shall be glad of any more, or of hints for further use. I record all corrections, in case there may be another edition.

Hang politics. I would like to have the kicking of some of these demagogues who have more zeal than discretion, more pride than principle, more ambition than patriotism. There is now so much

cool determination, the settlings of exasperation, in some of our Southern States, that I am afraid the current of dissolution can not be staid. S. Carolina, hot headed & fanatical as Massachusetts, goes out in spite of every thing, & I am afraid will drag all Cottondom with her but follow gerdom to do? Then what is the remnant of Niggerdom to do? I say again — hang Politics.

Truly yours

M. A. C.

Hillsborough, N. C. Jan. 2/61.

My Dear Doctor,

I have rec^d Booth's nice present, & herewith enclose a response, which I will thank you to send him some time — no matter when — that you happen to be writing to him. I see that I must have sent him my last (& best) specimen of L. glaucescens, var: γ. which I could not find in a late review of my Herbarium.

And this reminds me of something rather more astounding. The Orchidaceæ & eight or nine allied Orders are missing from my Herbarium. I do not know what to think about it. & I do not see how I could have lost them. Of those who could put any value on them, only Wood, Buckley, & Chapman, have had the entrée to my room, & I believe it was during the visit of Dr. C. that I dis-

covered my loss, when he wanted to look at some of my species in those riders. He is above & beyond all suspicion. Nor do I see how either of the other gentlemen could have managed to abstract the bulkiest folio of my collection. I am very unwilling to entertain suspicion of any body; but I can not account for the disappearance of the volume. It is altogether a very curious affair.

I told you in my letter, that the cone I sent (abies alba?) was not normal. I have two others, (1½ inch long,) which are the true & proper form of this crux tree. Try again.

I have nothing to say to your political essay. I am not going to discuss the questions now in dispute. I do little but abuse on both sides, north & south of me. Both are wrong, grievously, madly wrong. I would fain see the two sections acknowledge their wrong & recede. If S. Carolina were out of the question, I think we could settle our difficulties. But I fancy she wants to fight any how, & she can easily bring it about, & then we are all involved in civil war. It would be the best political bit of finesse ever perpetrated, if the Republican party would immediately yield all the points demanded by the South, which would retain most or all of the S. States in the Union, & then leave Palmettodom to shift for herself. I fancy she would soon tire of her independence. But your party has'nt wit enough for that, & for want of a little more wit, I suppose they will let the old ship of State drift & shatter upon the rocks of rebellion & revolution. It is a pity the counsels of sober moderate men could not be heeded; but fanatical extremists now rule our Congress. I wish they had all the fighting to do, if fighting is to come. We should then see who were as brave as their words. Sumner, an unmannerly blackguard & slanderer, aided by Brooks, a drunken bully, did most certainly elect Lincoln. I wish this was all.

A Happy New Year to you.

Yours truly,

M. A. Curtis.

Hillsborough, N.C. Sept. 1/65.

My Dear Sir,

Now we are beginning to see a streak of open day through the lines, I will make an effort to extend my vision as far as Cambridge. I hope I shall be able to get a glimpse of my old correspondent, Prof. Gray, still perched upon the Floral tripod in all his ancient dignity & importance, & as ready as ever to extend his friendly hand over as far as N. Carolina. — My first essay at correspondence, after a four years embargo, was with Prof. Baird. My first enquiries were, who of my old 'omotechnoi had left this mortal bourne. I was not surprised to learn that our Nestor, Darlington, had gone to his rest. I was also informed that Prof. Short was dead. We should not be surprised when any are taken away; but I was glad to hear that, with these exceptions, the circle was unbroken. My greatest surprise was, that Torrey had made a trip to California! He must be hearty.

Well, how are you? How do you come on in rebus herbariis? What has been doing in orbe botanico for the past four years? I have all this time been shut out from information, & am ready for even the smallest sort of gossip. During the war I felt no interest in such things, & gave no attention to Botany proper, the great topic of all overlaying nearly every other. But I got to one subject, towards which my stomach urged me in times of scarcity, & upon which I have acquired considerable interest.

I mean the eatable Mushrooms. I went largely into the use of these things, & got up a greater enthusiasm for them in several families than I myself felt. So last year I told Charlie, (my son, 16 yrs old,) if he would furnish colored drawings of such as grow here, I would supply the text, & we would publish one Decade to try the public taste for Mycophagy. It is now ready & will be sent to Prof. Baird in a few days in search of a Publisher. I could be ready in a week with another Decade, but I reckon it is better to see the reception of the first, before venturing on the second. — It is, of course, not in scientific form, but is in popular style & intended for universal use. — I had intended a good Saxon-English title for the thing, viz: "The Eatable Mushrooms of N. America;" but yesterday it came into my head that a writer, in quoting or referring to it, would have it Curtis, Eat: Mush:. Now I think do'nt, I can stand being called Eat Mush Curtis!

If it were a merely scientific work I should not hesitate to entitle it "Mycophagia Americana, or the Eatable" &c. What do you think of so calling it, anyhow? Would it look too pedantic? Or, had I better say, "Edible Mushrooms"? Let us have your judgment.

I told you some years ago, that somebody must have stolen my Orchideae. I have found them lately, & so an unpleasant suspicion ceases, & the comfortable thought of possession is revived.

Let me hear from you, if you can find time & humor for it.

Yours very truly — M. A. Curtis.

P.S. — I just escaped the loss of my Herbarium by Kilpatrick's men, they being but six miles from my door, when the armistice was arranged for Johnston's surrender. A miss is as good as mile. — We should probably have suffered badly in every way, if Sherman had kept on, the army having just heard of the foul murder of Lincoln.

Hillsborough, N.C. Sept: 28th 1865

P.S. — Did I tell you that I have found (last year) Quercus heterophylla (vera!) growing in this State?

My Dear Doctor,

It looks like old & better times to see your once familiar chirograph again. I have been pretty well shut out from the world for four years past, & a renewal of correspondence with old friends is with a feeling somewhat like that of a man just released from prison. Even here at home I exchanged very few letters; — two or three with Ravenel, & one or two with Peters, & from them I have not heard for many months. Not a word has passed between me & "good Dr. Chapman". The last I heard of him, he was in Columbus, Georgia, with his family. I presume he has now returned to Florida.

Dr. Holbrook of Charleston was alive some months since, & I have not heard of his decease. I do not think he is in Charleston.

Dr. Bachman was alive last Spring. I saw a son of his here, who told me that his Father had been sadly maltreated & personally injured, while sojourning near Cheraw, by some of Sherman's soldiery.

Of Col: Bowers (& the Co.?) I can tell you nothing.

I think you gave me about as much botanical news as could have been reasonably expected upon a sudden call. Canby ~~Baird~~ had mentioned the death of Hooker. Of Booth's decease I knew nothing until I read of the "late Dr. Booth"

in your sheet upon the Harvard Univ! Herbarium.
By the way, that is a grand thing. I hope the gift of your large collection was not made without some [future] consideration. I have been worried sometimes to know what disposition I should make of my Herbarium. Possibly I may think Harvard the best Depository. I shall want it to go where it will be taken care of & preserved. When our grand scheme of a Southern University was on the tapis, I thought it likely my collections would take that direction. But now that scheme is dead & buried beyond resurrection, I suppose, there is no place in the South where I could venture to trust such a treasure.

This man Canby seems to be a promising Botanist. He addressed me a petition for exchange very soon after the mail lines were opened, & I have sent him a few plants. How is it that Rhynch: fallida has been so long overlooked, & in a locality so well explored as that of Quaker Bridge? I am glad to find its range enlarged; & also that of Desmod: ochroleucum. I am much pleased with Canby thus far.

I have nothing specific to enquire about in botanical matters. I reckon that the items of interest will be gradually gathered in, as I get access to Papers, & read letters from correspondents. So just let me know of things as they occur to mind when you write.

I am glad to hear that Dr. Engelmann has taken up Juncus for elaboration. He is just the man for that Genus, only he will make more species than exist. But then we shall have all peculiar differences surely noted, as he seems to see every thing, though I think he does not generalize well always. This seems to me a grand fault of Agassiz. Still, tho' Dr. E. should cuscutineize upon Juncus, he will be doing a good work.

Well, Chs Wright is a hero! Still at work in Cuba! Flora must be his truly wedded Wife! And he loves her! Good fellow! And does she bring him any dowry? — Tell him, in Southern phrase, when you write, — "tell him How d'ye (pron: Howdy) for me." — I am curious to see those Fungi of his that you speak of. So send them on with the Mexicans that Baird has ordered. I will see what I can do with them. Since beginning this letter, I have recd an envelope containing some of Wright's Cuban specimens, directed in your hand. They are curious & new to me.

Talking of Funjusses, as Schweinitz used to call them, (so Prof: Mitchell told me,) — I have heard no more from Baird about the Mycophagia. I am still doubtful about using that big title. The thing is intended for popular use solely, & so is got up on the democratic principle, like my Woody Plants. I give a colored figure, with a popular description, of each species. There is nothing scientific about it. I want people to eat Mushrooms, & no amount of Mycological science will persuade them to that, except so far as I can make them believe that I have enough myself to guide them aright. They want results, nothing more. None of them will thank me for displaying the science which led to them. Nor have I a care to exhibit it in this case. I guess that "Edible [or Esculent] Mushrooms" will do.

I should like to publish the whole of our edible Mush-rooms, but the doing so will depend on sales. Being sufficiently patronized, we will go on. Otherwise, we shall stop with a decade or two. As far as they go, they will be good guides to students of Mycology, as well as to Mycophagists. Have you ever indulged in this kind of diet? It is really marvellous what an immense amount of nutritious & really luxurious food may be picked up in our woods. I had no idea of it, until I turned attention to these things. We can dry them, too, as we do fruits & vegetables, for use in winter. I have them now, dried a year ago. — Try them, if you ever have a chance to learn what's what.

I have just rec'd a letter from Baird, who says he will be with you soon. He will consult with you about the Mycophagia, & show you the drawings, from which you will see for yourself what my work promises. Should Prof. B. be with you on receipt of this, tell him Howdy; & say for me — thanks for his kind attentions.

Are you ever going to finish the N. A. Flora? If I were a rich man, the means should not be wanting any longer. I would give a handsome sum — anything needed — to have that monument of our Flora finished to the top, & a golden top too. Will not people buy? Or, what is the matter? Our lamented Darlington wrote me, long years ago, that he did not expect to live to see the completion of this work, which he had so much at heart. So it has turned out. It seems to me, that the sight of it complete upon his shelves, would have given him a new vital energy — the lease of a few more years among us.

Yours very truly,

M. A. Curtis.

work, & the mode of cooking given.
Is this enough!

Why should I send you another Decade, when nothing is yet settled about the first, & it will perhaps be months before it goes to press! In character & mode they will all be alike. However, if you insist, I will send Dec: II, though I like to keep mss: in hand for occasional additions & alterations.

"Your man Hale". I so called him, because his letter came with a note from you directing him to consult me as "the only man who could give the information" desired.

I wonder where Berkeley has published Wright's Fungi, or if they have been published at all. He had them all worked up more than six years ago.

I have rec'd duplicate copies from you of your last Notes in Sill: Journal. Darwin is a very shrewd observer & inductor certainly, but is rather too speculative for my temper. I can not yet swallow his Natural Selection theory, though he presents it with great ingenuity. The outcry raised against it, as being naturalistic, pantheistic, or Atheistic, is all nonsense. I do not see why Omnipotence or Providence can not work by gradual evolutions as well as by immediate creation & direct action. The former may be by fixed laws, & law implies a Lawgiver.

It is a long time since I have heard from Baird.

I have got again in communication with Tuckerman. He writes cordially, but is Tuckerman yet.

Well, I've written enough for this time, I guess; so with best wishes,

Yours truly, M. A. Curtis.

Hillsboro', N. C. Feb. 6th '66,

My Dear Doctor,

Your "Jan'y 29" was this morning put under my eye. — Much obliged for your attention to my foreign letters.

As to the superfluous "currency", it isn't much, — let it serve to pay postage on letters & pamphlets sent to me.

"Awfully high"! You are right. It was all along my desire that the Mycophagia should be both popular & cheap. I wished it to be a vade mecum among people in the country who would be profited by a knowledge of such food at their doors.

It is a fact, that, if a Decade cost Five Dollars, a person making careful use of it might derive four times that amount of good wholesome food in a single season; yet people are so scared by the high price of a book, especially a thin one, that I fear the Mycophagia would not go down with the multitude at present prices.

I don't know what to do. The Publishers are the men to decide on what is prudent & best. — I agree with you, that "Philadelphia is the place for such a work to appear." Would Lippincott take it in hand? — If the thing could be got out at a moderate price, I believe that enough could be sold in N. Carolina alone to pay for expense of mere publication.

I had no intention nor desire to come out in folio, nor even in 4to, but in a decent 8vo. Can not the plates be got out 7 X 10, or near that? It was in this expectation, that I took figures drawn from medium sized specimens of the large forms. There is but one figure which I thought would require a folded leaf. I do not want to make a grand book, but a cheap & popular one. Indeed the drawings are not of the finish to merit any great display of size & fine paper. Charlie is pretty much self-taught it, & has had but little practice. He has, however, given accurate representations of species. I shall be glad if he can realize a little for his trouble, as otherwise I do not see how he can complete his education.

You thus have my views & wishes on the publication. But as I am wholly ignorant of the Bookmaking art, I leave to yourself to decide what may or & shall be in the premises.

In the matter of your "announcing the work", I do not know what "details" you want. I wish to teach people to collect & eat our good Mushrooms. I offer one Decade, which, if it takes with the public, will be followed by several others, as material is presented. Before this reaches you, we shall be ready with two more Decades. A Preface of no great length for Dec: I. sets forth the value of these things as articles of food & luxury — some rules for their discrimination, manner of preserving for Winter uses, — antidotes in case of poisoning, — & the mode of propagating the cultivable species. Each species, such as we have ourselves seen eaten, is figured & described in the body of the

Last week I sent a discourse "concerning Mushrooms" to the Editor of the Chimney Corner, one of Frank Leslie's numerous publications. If he prints it, I directed a copy sent to you, the only one ordered.

I had some seeds of your "Lollipops" drying on my window sill. This morning, in looking for them, all had evaporated: whether by the agency of rats or birds, I know not. I will see if any more can be found, & will take better care of them.

My youngest son is still somewhere in the Alleganies with our State geologist. He was on the Hiwassee about the end of September, the last we have heard of him. I begged Prof. Kerr (pron: Carr) to look sharp for Shortia. Who will have the honor of restoring that plant? Too late now for poor A. W. S, who was very anxious to see & to have it. — Where is his large Herbarium? The Smithsonian, I have heard, declined it.

Ravenel has just sent me Lespedeza n. sp. Have you got it? He sent me the same thing in 1851, collected this side of Columbia, S. C.

Wishing you well, & a little more leisure, yours truly,

M. A. Curtis.

Hillsborough, N. C. Nov. 5 [illegible],

My dear Doctor,

I have not heard from you for a long time, but suppose you are busy. — I should intrude now, but I have something in mind that I wish to settle at once.

I have just rec'd a catalogue of U. S. Plants in the Department of Agriculture at Washington, endorsed by the head of the Department, Patton. He asks for contributions.

I am so dispatisfied with the catalogue, that my first impulse was to write to the Hon: it, exposing the imposition of some charlatan who has got this thing up. But I am determined that the exposure would come better from you, & in a public way; say in Sill: Journ. I presume you have received the Pamphlet. If so, you

can detect the scores of misprints, as well as I can point them out. Suppose, now, you get Sullivant's views upon the fellow's Musci & Hepaticæ, & Tuckerman's on his Lichens. He does not seem to have heard of the latter gentleman.

In his Fungi he has utterly ignored Schweinitz, Montagne, Berkeley, &c. & out of the 70 species in his list 30 are given as new species, established by one Peck, of whom I never before heard, but who, I suspect, is the compiler of the Catalogue.

His system is obsolete; his new species have mostly been published by Schweinitz, 30 or 40 years ago, as I can see by his names derived from the plants on which they grow.

His scholarship is suspicious, for he names one plant Aecidium Phloxii !!!

From the very numerous errors in orthography, I doubt if he can spell Latin.

Now here is some foreign (?) pretender imposing upon the Government, & dishonoring American science.

Ought he not to be castigated? ought he to hold such a place in Government employ? I command, in you, so far as my authority extends, to give him his dues.

So "lay on, Macduff."

I was in the Cumberland Mts. last month; but, being on business, & on short time, had small opportunity for collecting. I enlarged my acquaintance with Fungi a little. — I went to E. Tenn. & to Virginia. Return via Knoxville, Lynchburg, &c. The distance either way I found to be 697 miles. The return route much the most interesting, as I saw the whole line of the Alleganies from the Smoky Mts to the Peaks of Otter.

At Burksville, Virg.a, I found growing in the woods one solitary plant of Trichocoronis Spilanthoides. This does not look much like naturalization, but it may lead to it. This is the most southern locality of that thing that I know.

How comes on your Index of Manual?

Hillsborough, N. H. Dec: 6th '66.

Dear Doctor,

Just got yours of the 3rd inst. In my last I intimated an intention of writing you again before long. It was with the purpose of calling your attention to a scheme of our friend, & excellent man, Ravenel, for getting up an authentic Hortus Siccus for Botanists & Institutions. He desires your opinion, & if favorable, your cooperation in communicating such species as you have published. Since my last to you, I have rec'd another letter from him, which I enclose; from which you can learn his plan, wishes & promises.

My own feeling is, that Botanists & Institutions are already so well supplied with species from our Atlantic States, & generally so satisfactorily determined, that they will hardly care to be at so much expense for what they already possess.

I have said as much to Mr. R. at the same time, I told him that Gray & Engelmann, & such Botanists, were much better acquainted with the state of the market, would be his best advisers. Will you write to him, & give him your views in the matter.

The University of the South, eh! Well, I was in the woods in October. I had the corner stone of Tennessee Col'r, weighing 6 tons, at my last visit there. I brought away the biggest piece I could find of it, not so large as the end joint of my thumb! The vandal soldiers were not satisfied with burning up the houses, & stealing the few coins & documents (the Constitution of the U.S. being one of them, deposited by a Bishop, with the words "esto perpetua", the whole crowd responding with a hearty Amen)—but they must needs beat the poor block into gravel stones.

We fortunately saved our bonds & title deeds, & decided at the meeting that we would go ahead, if it be possible. I do not know how we shall succeed. We are awfully poor now in the South. Manufacturers, Cotton & Whiskey seem to be the only persons who have plenty of money.

I hope you got my last, accompanying a packet of Mayflop Seeds.

I remember speaking to you about a final disposition of my Herbarium; but I forget if I made any proposition toward selling it. I do not know how to estimate its value. My collection of Fungi, being the largest in America, containing hundreds of authentic species from the best Mycologists in Europe, & thousands accompanied with sketches of fruit & structure which I have made from microscopic examinations, ought to be very valuable. While I live, I shall not probably want to part with it. But I wish it be available to Science after my death; placed where it will be preserved, & can be used. What will you give for it?

Yours truly,

M. A. Curtis.

Hillsborough, N.C. June 3d 1861.

My Dear Doctor,

I am delighted, as you suppose, at a pension being given to our friend Berkeley. He has had to do much & hard work to keep afloat. In spite of Gout, & Gravel, & 13 children, he last year wrote articles enough to bring him in $400. What his salary as Rector of a Parish may be, I know not. He tells me that provisions cost twice as much as when he began housekeeping.

I had written out a pretty severe critique upon Peck, only waiting for a letter from him before sending it off, as I have been informed by the Acting Commissr that he had read my letter to the Department & would ~~should~~ answer in his own defence. But I have rec'd a letter from Prof. Baird which opens as follows: ——" Poor Mr. Peck of the Agricultural called some time ago in great tribulation over a letter the Department had received from you blowing him & his list of "Plants for Exchange" sky high," &c. &c. The fellow acknowledges his ignorance; that his new names were only provisional"; that he had no books of reference, &c. &c. So I have written to Baird, that if Mr Peck will keep quiet in future, I will let him alone. I really think, however,

that he impudently presumed on American ignorance; & is now very modest & humble because he is caught & in danger of exposure. — It seems that he is only a copying-clerk in the Department; but he volunteered to do this, Catalogue job. What business has he to publish "Specularia amphigenaulis, Beck"?. Was that a "provisional" name!

Papiflora should be coming up about this time. I will see if I can find some roots to send you. If you want seeds again, you will have to remind me of your wants next Fall, as I may perhaps forget.

You have heard from Canby since his visit to this State. Curious that he ~~found~~ first detected Hordeum pusillum at Wilmington. This morning I found the same thing in my Herbarium, collected at W. in 1831, 2, — a single specimen — mixed with Elymus Virginicus! This was one of my jeux-mits blunders, mistaking it, I suppose, for a young specimen.

My Catalogue of U. S. Plants is in press, the first proofs having been already corrected. It will be hanging fire for several weeks, I presume. You shall have a copy as soon as published.

Just got home from Wilmington — absent over a fortnight.

Yours truly — W. A. Curtis.

Hillsborough. April 30th/72

Dear Dr. Gray

Your second kind letter was received two days ago, and sent for your desire. To have dates and facts in readiness for your address, I should have claimed a longer indulgence before writing to you again -

I will endeavour to give you those dates which I can recall, in as few words as possible - My Husband was born in Stockbridge, Mass. on the 11th May, 1808. so that he was in his 64th year. His Father was Rev. J. Curtis, of Stockbridge - afterwards of Bradleston, Mass. His Mother, Miss Ashley, Daughter of Gen

Moses Ashley. He was fitted for College at his home, chiefly under his Father's tuition, and graduated at Wm's College in the class of '27 - came to Wilmington in '30, as Teacher for the family of Gov. Dudley and others. and remained there until the Spring of 1833, when he returned to his Father's house in ~~Boston~~ Charlestown, to study for the Ministry, privately, under the guidance of Wm. W. Eros. well. Rector of the Church of the Advent'.

Returning to Wilmington in the Fall of '34, he was married there to Miss DeRosset, continued his studies until June of '35, and was ordained in Richmond, Va.

He came to Hillsboro' in '41, remained here for 6 years - removed to S. C. and returned here in '57, after 10 years' absence. This has been our home ever since -

I do not recollect when he received his D. D. nor could I find the record without further search than there is time to make. If important to know, you can get the information from Rev. J. M. Hubbard, of Franklin, New York; his most intimate friend - Any further particulars, you might get from his Cousins, the President and Professor in Williams College, or from his Sister Mrs George Skilton, of South Somerville.

There have been discourses delivered, but none published, I think - My Sons are both so far away, that I am compelled to give you myself such data as you wished - and have been perhaps more prolix than you desired. With great regard

Dear Sir, Yours,

Mary DeR. Curtis.

Corrigenda ad Gray's Man. Bot. ed. 2.

p. 4.	Pitcheri should be	Pitchéri.
16.	Fràseri	Fraséri.
46.	Léchea	Lechéa
52.	Búckleyi	Buckléyi
58.	Mahringia	Mœhringia
97.	Astragàlus	Astrágalus
98.	Coòperi	Coopèri
112.	Chicàsa	Chicasa ? by authority.
125.	Adenoràchis	Adenòrachis
144.	Heùchera	Heuchèra
"	hìspìda	hìspida
234	Cardùus	Càrduus
235	Límpsana	Lampsàna
"	Intybus	Intybus
236	Ándelion	Andélion
237	longepìlum	longèpilum
238	Fràseri	Fraseri
242	leptostàchys	leptòstachys
251	Leucothòe	Leucòthoe ?
302	Ajùga	Àjuga
307	Satureìa	Saturéja

p. 327. microcàlyx should be microcàlyx

331, 462 Wilteri Walteri

337 vulgivàga vulgivaga

344 Fràsera Frasèra

354 Acerates Acèrates ακερᾱτος. Sixth ᾱ long.

368 chlorostàchys chlorostachys

373 Càregi Caregi

386 Géyeri Geyéri

396 Planera Planéra

406 Léana Leána

423 *469 Fraseri Fraséri

446 Hydiocharis Hydiochàris (See the Greek word)

441 Elodea Elodéa

445. Hookeri Hookéri

449 Listera Listéra

485. Schollera Schollera

495, 6. Eleocharis Eleochàris

499. Olneyi Olnéyi

" *521. Joneyi Joneyi

503. capillaris capillàris

510. Phyllostachys Phyllostachys

528. Bederi Bederi

556. Cooleyi Cooleyi

I should like to know from your best Cambridge Prosodist, why "saccharinum" & "ligustinum" are always marked with a long penult, when it should be short by rule, like cannabinus, tamariscinus, &c

~~e.g. matutinus, percepitinus~~ σακχαρῐ́ ? or ῐ̄.

p. 235. Lampsana. The original Greek word is λαψανα, & is derived from λαπαζω to purge, not from λαπτω, which means to lap.

271. Androsace. This is from ανδρος & ακος (acme) not σακος (a shield.) & so has abundant meaning, the Ανδροσακες of Rhin having had a high reputation for its cures of disease.

257. Is there any thing about the plant "Conobea" to justify its derivation from Conopeum (a canopy)? If so, then it has a long penult, & should be Conobéa.

257. Synthyris. Read θυρα for θυρις. I do not find the latter word.

441. For ár read 'ara

379. Saxifras. Is not this word a corruption of Saxifrage?

49. For σκίρος read σκυρος. — Why not always state when the word is an original Greek or Latin name for a plant, as áσκυρον.

106 Clitoria. "Derivation obscure."! — Modesty is a jewel.

127. Rhexia — an original name. Good for ruptures? or in allusion to the bagged calyx?

130. Cenothera — original name again. — οινος & θηρω — to hunt wine — the roots being used like Olives, to provoke a relish for wine.

141. Penthorum. I reckon this is from πεντε & ὄρος (the os coccygis) in allusion to the five beaks of the pod.

146. Philadelphus. An allusion to the union of the styles?

P.S. In the matter of "animals entirely nourished by vegetables" (Lessons p. 287) I presume your "intelligent youth" would get at the solution, - for there is but one solution of the paradox. Nevertheless, I would recommend, for next edition, a reference after the above to §§ 473 – 476.